

Amrita Bazar Patrika

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CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1899

NO. 24.

অনুগবলী।

শ্রীমদেব দাস প্রণীত।

এই খানি উপদেশ বৈক্য গ্রন্থ দুই শত
বৎসর পূর্বে লিখিত।
মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ অর্ধ আনা।
অমৃত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

শ্রীঅদৈত প্রকাশ।

শ্রীঅদৈত প্রবৃত্তি প্রবর্তন ও শিবা
শ্রীশিবনাথের কৃত।
শ্রীঅদৈত প্রবৃত্তি শিবা সর্বক
নূতন কথা আছে এবং শ্রীঅদৈত-প্রবৃত্তি
শিবা বিশদরূপে বর্ণিত হইয়াছে।
মূল্য বার আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ এক আনা।
পরাগবাজার, ত্রিভা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

শ্রীত্রিবিজ্ঞান-পত্রিকা।

বৈক্যবর্ষ সপ্তম প্রণীত প্রণীত এবং
মাসিক পত্রিকা। বার্ষিক মূল্য ২০ ডাঃ মাঃ ১০
অনেক প্রথম হইতে শ্রীত্রিবিজ্ঞান পত্রিকা
চাহিয়া পাঠান; কিন্তু কোন কোন সংখ্যা
একেবারে নিষেধিত হওয়ায়, আমরা তাঁহাদের
অভিলাষ পূর্ণ করিতে পারি না। সেই জন্য
আমরা উক্ত নিষেধিত সংখ্যাগুলি পুনর্মুদ্রিত
করিতে মনস্ত করিয়াছি। বাঁহারা উক্ত গ্রন্থ
বর্ষের সমগ্র পত্রিকা, কিম্বা উহার কোন বর্ষের
পত্রিকা চাহেন, তাঁহারা কৃপা করিয়া অবিলম্বে
আমাদিগকে জানাইবেন। বাঁহারা পূর্বে গ্রন্থক
হইবেন তাঁহারা প্রতি বর্ষের পত্রিকা দেখে
চাকার পাইবেন। একশব্দলায়, প্রকাশক
অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিস কলিকাতা।

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After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, can confidently say will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of dyspepsia in a short time, effectively and radically, however chronic and long-standing the complaint however violent its attack, the Acidity Pill will give instant and permanent relief as has been proved in hundreds of cases. Here are a few unsolicited testimonials:—

The Hon'ble G. M. Chitnavis C.I.B., Member of H. E. the Viceroy's Legislative Council writes:—The Acidity Pills are giving satisfaction to all those on whom I tried them.

Babu Hoshob Toshi Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate, Dacca, writes under date of 6th March, 1898:—Many thanks for your Acidity Pill. I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pains of the last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief only for a day or two. But since I have been taking your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any attack for a moment even during this time. The Pill is an excellent medicine for the nasty disease of which I am very much afflicted. Please send me three boxes of which pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience and oblige.

(From Babu Ramdhani Paure, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Arrah) I am really glad to certify that your Acidity Pills have a wonderful power to cure all ailments they are intended for and I have to thank you very much for the pills you sent me on December last.

(From Mr. S. C. Haldar, Political Agency, Gligit.) I am exceedingly glad to let you know that your Acidity Pills have miraculously relieved me of the colic pain and Lateral-Colic complaints from which I was very bad suffering for the last two years and more.

Kumar Hemendra Krishna, of the Sovabazar Splendidly, writes:—I am glad to state that I have been much benefited by the use of a box of your Acidity Pill. Really I did not expect so happy a result. Kindly send me two more boxes.

Babu Nilmoni Dey, Assistant Settlement Officer writes from Camp Pattepur, Dr. Mozafferpur:—I have tried your Acidity Pill and found them to be an excellent remedy in removing acidity immediately. They are a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are valuable in the Mafasil. They should find place every tourist's bag. Please send me two boxes immediately.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika says, Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity pill has an extraordinary digestive power so that men suffering from Dyspepsia may feel at ease. It is exclusively prepared from some herbs is perfectly safe.

Babu Sankar Sarcar, M. A. writes:—I have tried Dr. Biswas's Acidity Pills, and found them to be of great use not only in the case of Acidity but in general Dyspepsia. The medicine, it seems, is prepared solely from indigenous herbs, and perfectly harmless. Dyspeptic persons will find it to be a great boon for curing this dread disease.

Babu T. K. Sankar, Professor, Government College, Dibrugarh, writes:—Dr. Biswas's medicine for Acidity and dyspepsia has been tried in our family with marked efficacy and I can safely declare that sufferers who may give it a fair trial are sure to derive much benefit from it.

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N. B.—Our patrons and constituents are requested to have a look of the Institution which possesses its own Nursery, Orchards and the extensive Model farms.

A RACE WON BY A DEAD MAN.

WERE it not known that an experienced rider can fall asleep on a bicycle without losing his balance, and that a machine suddenly left to itself when going at a good speed will run on in a straight line for a considerable distance without falling, the gruesome story that comes from Australia would seem too remarkable to be credible. The story is that James Somerville, a champion Australian bicyclist, was racing in a cycle carnival at Sydney when he died suddenly. When within twenty-five yards of the winning-post he released his hold on the handles, and his head dropped forward, but he apparently continued to work the pedals, and came in the winner. He was lifted from his bicycle, and was found to be dead. The doctors said he had died during the last lap.

AN ESTATE WORTH £40,000,000

THERE is no story in all the romance of wealth more fascinating and remarkable than that of the pillage of the Astor millions, a fortune estimated at £80,000,000 sterling, evolved from a small consignment of musical instruments sent out to the founder of the family 110 years ago. Half of this colossal fortune consists of real estate in New York, an estate which in its vastness and value eludes the grasp of the most statistically-minded.

It is estimated that the Astor buildings, if placed side by side in one continuous line, would stretch a distance of seven miles—as far as from Kensington Palace, in the extreme west of London, to the west India Docks, in the far east.

The value of this "Astor Street" would be no less than £40,000,000 sterling. Each foot of it would be worth £1,082, a sum sufficient to keep a labourer's family in perpetuity, each yard with a value of £3,246, would produce for the income of an average clerk, and the revenue from one-twentieth of the street, a section of little more than a third of a mile in length would meet the entire cost of the British Cabinet for all time. To purchase these seven millions of buildings we should require money enough to pave its street from one end to the other with sovereigns. Along this track of gold, nearly 6ft. in width, it would be possible to drive or to march three abreast.

If the purchase price of £40,000,000 were converted to £5 Bank of England notes, we might carpet with them over seven miles of sea to a width of 66ft., along which it would be possible to drive from eight to ten abreast. The annual revenue from these seven miles of houses is estimated at £2,000,000, or the comforting income of £3 16s. a minute, and £5,479 a day, or £479 more than a judge of our Supreme Court draws in a year.

The genesis and growth of this ultralarge estate are full of interest. It is said on authority that the foundation of it was laid by the proceeds of a cartful of flutes and clarionets, which realized a sum of £250 for their consignee, the original John Jacob Astor. Whether or not this is true, it is a fact that the first plot of land brought by Mr. Astor on Manhattan Island cost him exactly this amount, £250. The value to-day of this plot on the Bowery is no less than £40,000, a small fortune in itself. Each shilling of this far-seeing investment is thus represented by £8 to-day, a gratifying appreciation of 16,000 per cent.

There was no tendency to speculation in Mr. Astor. He was an eminently shrewd, cautious, far-seeing man. His prophetic eye foresaw the development of New York, and the directions in which it would spread, and his method was to buy outlying land and simply wait until the invading city turned its acres into gold. One of his lucky investments was the purchase, in 1831, of the Cozine Farm, on which one of the most fashionable residential districts of New York stands to-day. It is no exaggeration to say that each £100 spent on this country farm is represented by a thousand times as much to-day.

By this process of gradual, far-seeing purchases, two-thirds of each year's income being regularly sunk in real estate, Mr. Astor was able to accumulate £5,000,000 sterling during his lifetime. This fortune his sons, by following in their father's steps, gradually buying out of income and never selling, have expanded to £80,000,000. What its value will be in another fifty or 100 years passes far beyond human comprehension.

The New York estate, it should be remembered, only forms half of the Astor millions. In mortgages alone the Astors boast £4,000,000 to £5,000,000; many millions more are invested in railways, in banks, and in land in other States; to say nothing of the millions which Mr. Waldorf Astor has sunk in English securities.

সর্পাচারের চিকিৎসা।

৩ষ্ঠ সংস্করণ।

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ভাষা এত সরল, যে জীবনোন্মোহিত ব্যক্তিও এই

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পারে। প্রত্যেক বিশ বছর বয়স্ক এই প্রণালী

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A CAVERN ADVENTURE NEAR CHAKRATA.

ON one of the ridges which stretches away from Deoban Mountain, the head and centre of the Chakrata group of Himalayas, the rugged peak of Moila rears its head, surrounded by frowning precipices and capped by a carved temple to the God Mahadeo. Contrary to what one would expect from its rocky sides, the summit is a perfect garden of many-hued flowers growing in a knee-deep angle over billowy mounds and hollows. On one side the variegated slopes fall towards a rugged wall of splintered rock into which a hurrying brook bores its way after wandering in sinuous course beneath the scented thickets.

A few weeks ago an adventurous spirit at Chakrata, curious to know what became of the steam, followed it for some distance down the tunnel which it has carved in the limestones, but not having enough ropes he was unable to explore far into the series of caves he found. His enthusiasm of this curious place soon collected an enthusiastic party of four who lately penetrated to the innermost recesses, armed with all the necessary paraphernalia of ropes, ladders, crowbars, lantern, etc. The party spent the night at Bodhr forest bungalow and in the early morning followed by a small army of coolies, climbed to the cloud-covered summit, and stripped for action at the narrow entrance to the stalactite halls and palaces which their imaginations pictured in the interior. The hole at the foot of the rock into which the stream plunged looked as if it might have formed the refuge for a bear or a leopard in a less soaking season, but it was not inviting to the visitors as they had to crawl on hands and knees in the water for the first twenty yards. Then it opened out and was joined by other little tunnels each bearing its tribute of water, tinkling through unseen openings in the summit of the mountain. Turning sharp to the left and widening as it went the cave led them some fifty feet along a natural fissure half filled by hanging stalactites and slimy rounded concretions projecting from the walls until the rushing sound of falling water made them cling to the sides and peer about for safe footings by the flickering light of their lanterns. A candle lamp lowered by a string revealed a large cave beneath, the bottom of which was almost filled by a circular pond into which the stream threw itself in a shower of spray which sparkled and gleamed over a myriad of dusky stalactites. The trunk of a young tree forced into the crevices gave a sound hollow for a rope down which the whole party swarmed one by one into the dripping cavern below, only to find that the stream a few yards further plunged into a black abyss, which to judge by the sound of the water appeared to be of vast greater depth than the cave in which they stood. Perched on a projecting knob of rock like a huge gargoyle one of the party lowered a lantern whose feeble gleams revealed the arched sides receding further and further until all feet it stuck the bottom and remained standing in a pool of soft mud, the spray from the stream enveloping it in a glistening fairy curtain. A stout beam was hauled along and firmly jammed across the opening to support a rope-ladder whose cumbersome bulk had been laboriously passed from hand to hand along the dripping windings of the cave. With much care it was firmly secured and lowered in vanishing perspective down towards the flickering speck of light nine feet beneath. More than one had unpleasant qualms as they left the security of the solid rock and swung off into black space hanging like flies to a ceiling from the slender ropes and rungs down which the water poured in a drenching shower bath, saturating each one in a few seconds as he slowly crawled from rung to rung. A rope-ladder is not a common thing at any rate on shore and nobody had tried one before or perhaps the climb would not have been started with such light hearts. The descent proved to be most severe to unaccustomed biceps and heads. Absence of objects to look at is a great cure for giddiness and the inky blackness relieved only by a yellow gleam in the crevice above and a red speck below no doubt contributed to steady nerves which might have failed had there been broad daylight and wind.

At the bottom the cavern was most disappointing, for it was evident that the roof and sides had only lately fallen in and there were so many more pieces of rock loose and likely to give way at any moment, that voices were unconsciously lowered to prevent the extra vibration which might cause a catastrophe. The water found its way out through a crevice between the fallen masses which blocked the exit and destroyed our hopes of endless ramifications with perhaps many fossils, deep pools with blind fish, and black corners full of blind spiders catching blundering insects. At the opposite side to where we had descended was a passage which led downward, and in it we discovered a second stream flowing down to join the first beneath the debris under our feet. This stream also forced its way out through the chinks between the rocks, but the passage by which it came led by two branches to a wide fissure full of dripping spray, and on through a series of small caves to narrow outlets in the mountain top hidden amongst its covering of rank vegetation.

Whilst busy in this exploration, crawling on hands and knees in the tepid water, bumping our heads and elbows against sharp corners, drenched from within and without, a shout re-echoed from above, repeated and repeated with terrible vehemence. It was from a coolie whom we had stationed at the entrance to warn us if heavy rain came on; he was trying to make us understand that a regular and burst had arrived and the stream was rapidly becoming a river. The prospect of being shut up in the depths of the mountain for a day or two with the added chance of a ton or two of rocks falling on our heads was sufficiently alarming to make us hurry back to the rope ladder. Now came the difficulty, the last round was miscalculated and only reached to within ten feet of the ground. Coming down, this had not much mattered, but going up was a different thing, especially after our laborious experiences. It taxed nearly all our remaining strength to only reach the first rung and we started on the 80 feet climb with but a slender amount of power in reserve. Every few rungs one was forced to stop and invent new methods of hanging so as to rest each weary muscle strained almost to the breaking point. One member of our party in fact gave up the task and declared he could not do it and it was only by our frantic encouragements that he was little by little persuaded to strain up rung by rung to safety above. To add to our difficulties the water was now coming down in an uncontrollable stream right on to the head of each as he struggled on the swinging ropes. The joy of once more raising one's head into the light and feeling one's feet on solid if slippery rock is not easily forgotten after that interminable torturing climb. But even this was not all. A rope ladder is a heavy thing, but a soaked one is a much heavier and as none of our coolies could be induced to come into the cave which they were persuaded was the abode of ghosts, the main labour of hauling up the ladder and passing it along those horrible passages had to be done by us. We were all thankful when muddy, scratched and exhausted we emerged into the purer air of the mountain, quite convinced that no one had ever been where we had, and still more convinced that no one else would ever be such a fool as to go there again. A correspondent in the Pioneer.

A NEW rule of the Allahabad High Court provided that no Judge or Additional Judge shall leave the district to which he is attached without previously having obtained permission. Such permission shall, in the case of a District Judge, be obtained from the High Court, and in the case of an Additional Judge from the District Judge.

PUSHED INTO THE LADY'S BEDROOM.

MR. JUSTICE BARNES had before him the other day in the Divorce Court the petition of Mr. Edward T. Walker, an article clerk to his father, a solicitor, practising in London, for a divorce on the ground of his wife's misconduct with Mr. E. B. Bibby. There was no defence. It appeared from the statement of counsel that the petitioner was, in 1894, reading for his final examination. He, however, became dissatisfied with the profession of the law, and with the consent of his father went abroad, ultimately reaching New Zealand. While there he came to the conclusion that he had made a mistake and arranged to return to resume his studies. He took his passage by a steamer which was to sail on December 29th, 1894. On the 24th of the month he and some other young fellows dined together in the hotel, with the result that there was a good deal of drinking. Mr. Walker went up to bed in a more or less stupid condition. While passing the bedroom of a lady, two of the young fellows pushed in Mr. Walker. This gave rise to some outcry, and resulted in Mr. Walker being ordered out of the hotel. The next day the lady (the present respondent) came to him and said he had deeply compromised her character, she being well connected, and that the only redress he could make was to marry her. He told her his position, but she replied that she had 300l., and that, as soon as he passed his examination in England, he could send for her. Under this pressure he borrowed 5l., and they were married on December 29th. On the same day Mr. Walker sailed for England, and the marriage was never consummated. After his return home the petitioner received an anonymous letter which opened his eyes as to the character of the woman he had married. In March, 1895, she sailed for 50l., which was sent to her, and in April a further sum was sent to enable her to come home. When she arrived, in June, the petitioner told her that until the matter referred to in the anonymous letter had been cleared up, it was impossible for him to live with her. She said the letter was sent out of revenge by a man she had jilted. Rooms were provided for her in a London hotel, but from what subsequently transpired, counsel said there could be little doubt that the respondent was a woman of loose character before her marriage, and that she constantly travelled in steamers for the purpose of making the acquaintance of young men. He should prove that while on board the *Orotava* she visited the cabin of Mr. Bibby in his night dress, and from what was seen by two stewards, who saw her enter, there could be no doubt as to the object of the visit. Evidence in support of counsel's statement having been given, his Lordship granted petitioner a decree nisi.

THE SOURCES OF THE IRRAWADDI.

PRINCE HENRY OF ORLEAN'S TRAVELS.

MANY readers will remember the disappointment that was felt at the very meagre information regarding the head waters of the Irrawaddi, that Prince Henry of Orleans had either collected or was willing to give to the world after his adventurous journey in 1895-96 from Tonquin to Assam via Yunnan, directly across the basins and intervening watersheds of the Mekong, the Salween, and the Irrawaddi, and down the Brahmaputra. A meagre itinerary alone was then published and nothing of interest about those strange folk the Kachins and cognate tribes. Prince Henry, however, subsequently wrote a book on his travels which was published in 1898 in English. From this, with the aid of his map, a fairly clear conception of the sources of the Irrawaddi can be obtained, but very little of interest regarding the people who inhabit the basins. Some descriptions of their manners and habits are given it is true, with parallel glossaries of various dialects; but though separate appendices are given of flora and fauna, we are told but little of the humans he encountered.

The portion of the journey interesting to those who have studied the Irrawaddi and the folk who inhabit its upper waters begins at Talin, where, crossing the Mekong Prince Henry and his party marched west for about 100 miles, striking the Salween, and after following up its east bank for some miles, they struck back to the Mekong and moved up this river for close on 250 miles till they reached Aense, only about 100 miles south of Batang. From here the direct push for Assam commenced, striking S.W. for 50 miles across the Salween and then due west to Assam some 250 miles. This route led the explorers across difficult country in which they traversed at right angles the innumerable streams running in deep gorges with lofty watersheds between which flow down to main branches of the upper Irrawaddi the N'Maikha, and the N'Malikha. The route thus taken entailed the continual ascent of the very lofty ranges between each river, the constant bridging and rafting of these rivers and the subsequent immediate ascents; ascents and descents so constantly recurring as to break the heart of the most persevering traveller and to render the route taken valueless for purposes other than exploration.

Looking at the map of the Irrawaddi it will be seen that the country above "the confluence," the junction of the N'Maikha and the N'Malikha, is unexplored both between these rivers, and on the east bank of the eastern river the N'Mal kha; while on the west bank of the N'Malikha some mapping and explorations have been made, a British exploring party having reached the plains of Khampti, for long time almost a myth only known of by local accounts. Prince Henry's route crosses this unexplored country from east to west from 150 to 130 miles north of the confluence, debouching into Khampti, but of necessity leaving the intervening tract to the south unexplored.

The basin of the Upper Irrawaddi may be compared to a vast horseshoe bounded by a vast semicircle of enormous mountains, which divide it into the basin of the Brahmaputra on the west and North-west, from Thibet on the north, and the Salween on the east. From this horseshoe, narrow lofty spurs branch inwards, which form the watersheds of the numerous streams which go to form the two main branches of the Upper Irrawaddi. For years it was supposed that the Irrawaddi, like the Salween and the Mekong, owed its immense volume of water to the length of country it traversed, and that like them it stretched up far away into Thibet. Prince Henry, however, has conclusively shown that instead of draining Thibet, and running more or less parallel with the upper waters of the Brahmaputra, the Salween, the Mekong and the Yang-se-Kiang, the Irrawaddi's volume of water is drawn from a comparatively small tract of enormous hills whose valleys are so steep that almost all the rainfall and melting snow water drains into the rivers, unabsorbed by the ground it passes over. The mountains are so lofty and the arteries so numerous, that in a short distance the volume of water, as known to our officers at the confluence, rivels if it surpasses that of the other rivers which runs for many a hundred mile in Thibet. The principal rivers crossed were the Kiu-Kiang (zigzag river) north of N'Maikha, proper, and its affluent the Tournon (stony river) and thence in the waters shed of the N'Maikha, the Re-nam-Remai, the Nam Tsan, 40 yards wide, and the N'Malikha proper or Nam Kiu 160 yards wide, running through the Khampti plain. In addition to these rivers many others with equally difficult spurs between them were passed. The N'Maikha and the N'Malikha almost enclose an oval, about 130 miles from north to south and perhaps 80 miles from east to west. The large mountain, the legendary birth-place of the Kachin race would seem to lay within this unexplored tract. The inhabitants of the banks of the upper affluents of Nam Kiu, or N'Malikha,

Speak of the main stream as Mali-Romai. The various rivers seem to bear almost indiscriminately the Chinese, Shan, Kachin and other dialectic terms for river: Kiang, Nam, Ho, Chung, Kha, and Remai being applied at will which must account for the confusion that arises when mapping by hearsay only. It also seems that both the main branches of the upper Irrawaddi bear practically the same name the N'Maikha being the Kiu-Kiang, the N'Malikha the Nam Kiu; the two names Kiu sounding at any rate to the foreigner one and the same though perhaps after the manner of monosyllabic tongues quite apart. This is another instance of the difficulty of filling in maps from hearsay, which has so often to be done, when survey parties cannot penetrate to a country itself.

At the confluence, the N'Maikha or eastern branch brings down the larger mass of water, but at Prince Henry's points of crossing the western branch, the Nam Kiu was far broader than the Kiu-Kiang, being where he crossed it in the Khampti plain 160 yards across. The Kiu-Kiang therefore receives its mass of water from various affluents on the unexplored country on its banks. The party under Lieutenant Eldred Pottinger, R.A., which met with such ill fortune a year or so ago was, if I remember aright, bent on opening up some of the unexplored country on the eastern banks of this river.

The inhabitants of the various regions through which Prince Henry passed after leaving the Salween spoke constantly of the big plain of "Apon," (Khampti) and of the big river "Neydu" which ran through it, though not mentioning the Kiu-Kiang at all as a land mark. The Nam Kiu, N'Malikha, or Mali Remai then may be considered the Irrawaddi proper, as it is the branch which longest maintains a large volume, and the N'Maikha or Kiu-Kiang is ousted from that position and becomes a tributary, as the Shweli or Chindwin. The old geographers, it will be remembered, thought that the Lou-Kiang of Thibet was the eastern branch of the Irrawaddi, but that was some years back shown to be the Salween.

The following is the diary of the French explorers between the Salween and Khampti:—Left Salween 25th September, October 7th crossed watershed between Salween and Irrawaddi, October 13th. Reached Kiu-Kiang, November 3rd, River Keum (basin of N'Malikha), November 10th. Nam Tsan river, November 18th Khampti, November 19th crossed Nam Kiu. They often, however, only moved two or three miles a day, owing to their feeble health and the difficulties of the road. From December to May most of the watersheds they crossed are blocked in snow, and the Irrawaddi probably owes far more of its water to melted snow than its longer neighbours do, and the icy coldness of its waters in the summer have always pointed to a watershed among masses of snowy mountains. The following are the heights of the principal chains crossed by Prince Henry:—

Between Mekong and Salween watershed... 12,860.
Between R. Donyon (a tributary of Salween) and Salween... 9,100.
Between Salween and Poul-Ho (tributary of Salween)... 12,800.
Between Salween and Irrawaddi watershed... 8,400.
Between Kiu-Kiang and Nam Kiu or N'Malikha... 8,100.
N'Maikha... N'Malikha.

Numerous others of lesser heights were crossed, spurs of the great range north of the basin of the Irrawaddi, and the difficulties of the road may well be imagined.

Regarding the peoples met with, so far as our interest in the Kachins is concerned, I need only touch on them from the Salween onwards. Very little, however, of interest is forthcoming. The Iou or people of the Iou or Salween, the Kiu-Kiang or people of the Kiu-Kiang and the Lissons are the principal folks he meets en route to Khampti. Their physiognomy, habits, religion, and dress, all resemble the people we are accustomed to call Kachin. Prince Henry talks of the country of the Sing Phou or Kachins commencing below Khampti, but he apparently only refers to one particular section of a similar people. It would seem that all the tribes would be best described to our understanding as Kachins. Our officers are used to an extraordinary variety of tribes all bearing this generic name, tribes which are as varied in dialect as those the French Prince mentions. In our own provinces one of the most curious points is the extraordinary varieties of physiognomy occurring in the individuals of Kachin tribes, though Prince Henry's pictures portray the well-known coarse Mongolian features alone. It would seem that the race of which our Kachins are a portion populate the basin of the Irrawaddi and possibly part of the Salween, whence they have fought their way down and in ages past overflowed into Lushai and Chin land; these latter races having many kindred points and similar customs. There is nothing to show from Prince Henry's account whether a similar people inhabit the northern slopes of the barrier between the Irrawaddi basin and Thibet, or whether they are reported to live on the higher waters of the Salween. Our Kachins talk of the home of their race being in the mountains between the N'Maikha and N'Malikha, and it remains for some British explorer to fill in the map of this tract of which we know nothing save along the route taken by Colonel Yule with his column in 1892, which crossed the N'Maikha and pushed a few marches into the centre of this country, returning by mules the same route. The Pais Thais, a people of Moam, whom Prince Henry talks of as inhabiting Khampti and other tracts, are our old friends the Shan and Sian-Burman who in days gone by pushed out colonies in many directions. Khampti is a Shan State, and is one of the few relics of the Shan independence. The Khampti Tsawba has more than once paid by proxy visits of half submission half courtesy to the British officials of Mogaung and Bhamo, but this country is not at present administered by us.

Prince Henry, in his book, constantly apostrophises the tribes he has met, warning them against the grasping and land hunger of the British Lion. At other times he reproaches his countrymen for having lost India, holding up the example of the British official, to be followed by the French Colonial administrator, whom he speaks of as continually clogging with red tape the efforts of French colonists and subjects for progress, while the British officials do all in their power to assist those they control. Like all French travellers, he is bitterly envious of our possessions and success and cannot hide his dislike, yet is obliged to recognise the measures by which we have achieved success.

His journey is on a par with that of the boldest of explorers, and his contributions to geographical knowledge invaluable. Possibly he is keeping back his ethnological notes till they have been properly classified and connected by an expert in the science. The map he publishes is on a very small scale and quite fails to clearly portray the part of the Irrawaddi basin he traversed.

LADY Curzon's sisters arrived in Bombay by Friday's mail. One of them was carried ashore ill. When the whole of the packages of the Misses Leiter's baggage was landed, it was discovered that a dressing case was missing, containing a jewel case in which was enclosed the whole of the jewellery of both ladies. A careful search ensued. Every possible hole and corner of the launch, lighter, and the *Caledonia* were immediately searched, but no trace of the missing package could be found. Immediately the Commissioner of Police set four European officers to inquire into the matter. By some means it got mixed up with other luggage, and was carried away to Government House, Malabar Point, where it was discovered the same afternoon.

THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, MARCH 30, 1899.

THE PET CHILDREN OF THE QUEEN.

THE Chamber of Commerce, more intelligent but less frank, opposed the agitation against the Municipal Bill in these words:—

In view of the recurrence and increasing intensity of the plague in Calcutta, the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce regard with the greatest alarm the fact that the Calcutta Municipal Bill is being made a party question in the British Parliament. Political discussion inevitably results in delay. For the protection of the lives of the inhabitants and traders of the port, immediate measures for the cleansing and keeping clean of the town and for better sanitation are demanded, and the Committee consider that the political aspect of the question may remain well over for future discussion. While looking, therefore, to the local Government to adopt such immediate measures as they think necessary to meet the emergency of the case the Committee take the opportunity of assuring the Government that any measures they may take to accomplish the object in view, will have the cordial and continued support of the members of the Chamber.

The Trades Association, less intelligent but more frank, opposes the movement in this plain and undisguised manner:—

The Committee of the Trades Association notice from the published report of a public meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta which was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 21st instant, that a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy was adopted praying that His Excellency will not allow the Municipal Bill which is now before the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor, to be passed into law.

The Committee of the Trades Association, as representing a large section of the European community, regard it to be their duty to take the earliest opportunity to address Government upon this important matter. They are aware, of course, that under the most favourable auspices the Bill cannot be passed for some months, but they deprecate in the strongest possible manner any movement which is calculated to lead to unnecessary delay, or to interfere with the due consideration and passing of the Bill. The Committee do not consider it necessary to comment on any of the points referred to in the Memorial; the whole question has been thoroughly considered by the Local Government and by the public bodies to whom it was referred; the Government of India have approved of the principle of the Bill, the Secretary of State has accepted the view taken by the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, while His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in referring to the decision which an "overwhelming majority" of his Council had arrived at in the matter, stated that he was "independently of opinion that that decision was right."

The importance of the Bill from a sanitary point of view has been strongly emphasised by the unhappy reappearance of plague in Calcutta; the Committee would venture to suggest in the present emergency that the Local Government should order steps to be taken to ensure at any cost, greater supervision over the sanitary arrangements of the city; such action they submit, would at once create a feeling of greater security and confidence, and tend to safeguard not only the health of the inhabitants, but also the commercial and trading interests of the province.

The Anglo-Indians behave as if they are the children of the Queen, while the Indians are but her step-children. If that is so, the Anglo-Indians should, in return, bear some love for her reputation. In this contention about Municipal affairs they demand special privileges. But they ought not to be utterly selfish. They should allow some liberty to the Queen, so that she may fulfil her own duties and pleasures. After all that has been done to shew the unpopularity of the Municipal Bill, can the Government now ignore the claims of the Indians without stultifying itself? Government has a reputation to maintain, a duty to perform and a conscience to obey. Government cannot act like a military power, without a future, ignoring the dictates of conscience and a heart. The movement, set on foot by European tradespeople and merchants, shew that they feel that the position of Government has been weakened by the agitation of the Indians and they want to strengthen its hands. But in what way, please? Of brute strength, the Government has enough. Do they mean to furnish it with moral strength? But their efforts are not likely to strengthen but weaken the hands of the Government morally.

The ethics of the agitation against the Municipal Bill is that, it is a measure introduced for the benefit of the Europeans at the cost of the Indians. Of course, Government will repel such a charge with horror. But the action of the Trades Association and the Chamber of Commerce only establishes the charge in the most complete manner. The lakhs of Indian rate-payers say that the measure, if introduced, will benefit a few thousands of Europeans and harm them and should not, therefore, be passed. The Europeans say, "Don't listen to the Indians. We are for the measure, so let it be passed." Now, is this sound advice? Will not this advice, if followed, destroy the reputation of Government for high-mindedness and impartiality in a complete manner?

Let the selfish and unthinking people, who are clamouring for a measure, advantageous to them and injurious to the Indians, place themselves in the position of the responsible rulers of the land. They will then possibly realize that, by their advice they are acting as the greatest foes of the Government. Can the Government, after what has passed, pass the Bill, with all its objectionable features, without casting its honor and sacred pledges to the four winds? Selfishness should not utterly blind them as regards the position of Government, which exists not to satisfy the whims, passions and prejudices of the smallest section of the community, but to rule the people of this vast country well.

Do they want rigid measures for stamping out plague? Let Government take the entire charge of the Municipality so long, the plague rages in the country, which it can do under the provisions of law in emergent cases. There cannot be any objection to that. But as for accepting the measure, introduced

by Sir A. Mackenzie, with its deadly sting, Government can never absolutely do it without destroying its fair reputation. And the reputation of Government ought to be dearer to the Anglo-Indians than to the Indians, or even to Englishmen living in England. At a moment like this, when Government is in a delicate position, the duty of the pet children of the Queen is not to embarrass her Government, but to help it out of its difficulty.

As a matter of fact, the Anglo-Indians will derive no benefit by the measure for which they are clamouring. It is now mere *zid* and race question that move them.

A GRAND procession, under the auspices of the Gauranga Samaj, will start from the Beadon Square to-morrow at 5 P. M. to celebrate the birth-day of Sree Gauranga, the Avatar of Nadia. Beadon Street will be decorated with flags bearing various sacred mottoes, and lighted after sunset. Two gateways are in course of erection, from which first-class Nababats will discourse sweet music. But the chief feature of the procession will consist of Kirtan parties, who will sing hymns accompanied by Khols and cymbals in honour of Sree Gauranga, who is believed to be the Incarnation of Hari or God. In this way, it is expected, hundreds of Kirtan parties will sing the sacred name of Hari in the main streets of Calcutta and infuse a feeling of piety in the breast of even the most hardened of sceptics. The spectacle, which Calcutta expects to present to-morrow, was never before witnessed in the city. A large number of Hindu inhabitants of the city are expected to join the ceremony, and add grandeur to the imposing scene. At the kind invitation of Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore K. C. S. I., the Sankirtan parties, after they had gone round some of the principal streets, will assemble at the Tagore Castle and take rest and refreshments which will be provided for them by the noble Maharaja.

We do not think that plague will be able to penetrate into Bengal. The reason is that this country is in the possession of cholera and malarial fever. People dread plague because it means segregation and invasion by plague officers. But as a matter of fact cholera is no less dreadful, or is perhaps more dreadful, than plague. We do not choose to offend the evil spirit in charge of plague, (we mean good spirit; we hope the spirit will pardon us for calling it evil, we meant dreadful) for we are loyal both to plague and cholera; but we must say cholera has shewn feats which beat everything accomplished by plague. We know of a family of nice members going to bed at night, and in the morning the neighbours finding eight of them dead and only a female living, the latter gasping and at the point of death. Cholera is thus in occupation in Bengal and will not permit plague to make any head-way in this province. Of course, the spirit, which is in charge of cholera, if it has any spirit and self-respect, will never permit plague to exercise its power in Bengal.

A barber was coming home from a bazar with a *hilsa* fish in hand. Evening overtook him in the midst of a moor, and he was immediately accosted by a ghost. Here, let us give some preliminary explanation. A barber is always cunning; a ghost is always fond of fish, especially *hilsa*; evening is the time for ghosts to prowl; they speak in a nasal tone which at once discovers their species; and they are afraid of human beings when the latter are more than one. In short, the ghost announced himself from behind the barber by demanding the fish. "Give me the fish," said it, in its nasal tone. And the barber came at once to know that it was a ghost who was making the demand. It was in the evening and in the midst of a solitary moor. And of course, the barber trembled with fear. But to yield to fear was to die. To give up the fish was to give his life. So he mustered courage, and being very shrewd, thought of a plan of escape. So he said, "Of course you will get the fish, come along with me." The ghost wanted to be civil. And so he proceeded for some time in silence. The ghost again demanded the fish. This time the barber, as if offended, resented this importunity, and said, "I have said, you will have the fish, Yon tamarind tree marks the boundary of my village. I shall give it to you when we have gone so far as that."

Well, they approached the tree. It should be observed here that the barber's village had four ghosts, who resided in that tree. And the cunning barber wanted to pit his village ghosts against the stranger, and thus escape. So when they had both approached the tamarind tree the barber began to remonstrate with the stranger ghost in these words: "I purchased the fish for my use, and you want it. What injustice! You dare this because you are more powerful than I. But there are others more powerful than you and they are my co-villagers, who will surely protect me." And then the barber directly addressed the four ghosts who, he knew, were perching on the branches of the tamarind tree. "Take note, your honours," said the barber, "this ghost from another village is trying to take my fish forcibly as if my village has no ghosts to protect me. Will you permit this outrage to be committed upon a co-villager?"

The four ghosts thus addressed thought the appeal of the barber to be just and reasonable. For a moment they counselled among themselves and then the four stalwart ghosts jumped down from the topmost

branches of the tree upon the unfortunate stranger. Four to one, the business was managed in an incredibly short time. There were some sounds of blows followed by unearthly shrieks. In the midst of the confusion the barber escaped.

It is not unlikely that the cholera bacilli will eat up the plague bacilli; surely they both cannot flourish.

It is most fortunate that when the Sugar Bill was introduced and passed, we had two such representatives in the Council as Mr. A. Charlu and Mr. G. Chitnavis who have practical experience of the country and who consult their own countrymen before hazarding any opinion on public questions on behalf of the latter. For, if they were political doctrinaires like Mr. P. Mehta and had opposed the measure in the way he did, it would have proved disastrous to the interests of the nation. It was urged by Mr. Mehta that the matter was not so urgent as to justify the hasty course adopted. Mr. Chitnavis' reply to his objection was conclusive. Said he:—

The existing state of things with regard to the sugar industry of India is such that it is impossible to tolerate it any longer. The bounty-fed beet sugar has nearly driven away cane sugar from our markets, and one by one the rayats are giving up cane cultivation. And once a rayat has given up cane cultivation he has practically done with it for ever. For it should be borne in mind that the rayat plants canes and preserves their cuttings immersed in water for the next year's cultivation. A rayat who has failed to preserve these cuttings has either to purchase them—if at all procurable—at an enormous cost as to give up cane cultivation altogether. Thus, should the existing state of things be allowed to continue, a time might come when the cultivation of canes will disappear altogether from this country.

In the same manner the date sugar being driven away from the market by the bounty-fed beet it is said that the rayats in Bengal have ceased to grow date trees. And that being the case, it is apprehended that the manufacture of sugar from date juice might disappear from Bengal in the course of few years.

Every word of the above is true. We know from personal experience that since the appearance of bounty-fed sugar in Bengal, the cane and date cultivation has been fast disappearing from this province. Things have at last come to this pass that rayats have almost ceased to plant canes and grow date trees. As Mr. Chitnavis points out, the cuttings of canes must be kept alive by immersing them in water for next year's use. But the rayats in most places have ceased to do so, as cane sugar does not pay, and cane cultivation has thus been well-nigh given up. Similarly, cultivators have ceased to grow new date trees and thus one of the most profitable sources of their income is lost to them. The Sugar Act is a godsend, for if the Viceroy had delayed it a few months more, the date and cane cultivation, for the purpose of manufacturing sugar, would have altogether disappeared from the country. For very few rayats would have cared to grow date trees or preserve the cuttings of canes for next year's cultivation and thereby suffer loss. In Bengal, the districts of Jessore, Nadia and the 24 Pargannas teemed with sugar refineries, on small and large scales, some three or four years ago. There was scarcely a village within the jurisdiction of such police stations as Monirampur, Kessurpore, Chougachra, Kotchandpore, Goberdanga, Habra, Deyganga, Badooriah, Arbelia, Nadia, etc., which had not its sugar manufactory. That is to say, a vast area of the country was studded over with thousands of these refineries. But what is the state now? They have almost all of them been extinguished, and scarcely one hundred such refineries are to be found where there were thousands, which enabled the rayats to pay rent to their landlords and keep themselves in comfort. The few scores which are yet struggling to exist would have vanished next year if the Sugar Bill had not been passed this session. And when they were all gone and dead, the European manufacturers of beet sugar would have had everything in their own way, and might have demanded any fancy price they liked for the commodity. The present cheap price is thus a delusion and a snare.

We congratulate Babu Prafulla Chandra Banerjee on his being appointed to act for one year as Deputy Postmaster General of Eastern Bengal. We hope he will this time be confirmed in the appointment, for he should have been made a permanent Deputy Postmaster General long ere this.

FROM the *Times* article on the bounty-fed sugar, it will be seen that the subject has not only roused considerable interest in England, but has been dealt with in a remarkably able manner, and from almost every point of view, by that journal. The Sugar Act, which has just been passed by the Government of India, is likely to be made a subject of discussion in Parliament. But Sir Seymour King, who has studied the subject thoroughly, is sure to carry the whole House with him, with the exception perhaps of some members like Mr. Maclean, who have already committed themselves hopelessly in this matter, and of others who have either personal interest as importers of bounty-fed sugar like some Bombay merchants or who are uncompromising worshippers of the principles of Free Trade. It is gratifying to observe that, our London correspondent, though "an ardent and uncompromising Free trader" is yet shrewd enough to see that "these principles cannot be applied to a country like India, where the economic doctrines which govern the fiscal policy of Britain are hopelessly unsuitable to both

the people and the trade." One great fact should influence those who come forward to offer any opinion on this subject. It is this that India has now scarcely any industry of its own. And this is owing to the application of Free Trade principles in this country. England, America and every other country in the world, which are now strict free traders, ruthlessly violated the doctrines of Free Trade by imposing protective duties upon foreign imported articles in order to establish their rising industries on a firm footing in the beginning. Even now, in the matter of bounty-fed sugar, America has imposed a countervailing duty like the Indian Government. Perhaps the only native manufacture which India still possesses, namely the sugar, would have been for ever extinguished but for the timely measure of Lord Curzon.

MR. JOINT-MAGISTRATE MARR of Begu-serai disposed of a case in which a wealthy Hindu was accused of having stolen sugar-canes from lands claimed as his own by one Mr. Murphy, an indigo planter. There was an Indigo Commission appointed in Bengal, which after due inquiry came to the conclusion that the planters of Bengal were very oppressive. The Behar planters were not meddled with on that occasion; but Sir Ashley Eden, when Governor of Bengal, told them bluntly that they should put their house into order or they would be interfered with. Numerous cases in the criminal courts have established the fact that there has always been a ceaseless struggle between the planters and the Indians. It is for this reason that no Indian Magistrate is sent to the indigo districts. There are a handful of European planters and millions of Indians—all subjects of Queen Victoria. They do not agree. The Indians would prefer Indian Magistrates, while the Europeans would prefer Magistrates of their own community. But the policy of Government is very clear on the point,—the wishes of the few Europeans should be complied with against the wishes of the millions of Indians, and therefore all indigo districts get only European Magistrates. Such being the case, every European Magistrate in that quarter should feel the serious responsibility of his position.

But see how Mr. Marr managed it. The charge against the Indian, who is a wealthy man, was that he had stolen sugarcane from the land of Mr. Murphy. We venture to think that wealthy people do not ordinarily steal canes. But let that go. The fact of the case seems to be that the land was claimed by the Indian where he had planted canes, and he removed them which he thought belonged to him. But Mr. Marr convicted the Indian of theft on the ground that natives were liars! The poor Indian had to come to the High Court, where the Judges found that there was no theft nor would it have been theft if it were proved that the land belonged to Mr. Murphy! It is in this way that justice is sometimes administered in this country, especially in cases between Europeans and Indians. The Government does not take notice of such cases, for officials must be protected at any cost, forgetful of the fact that the earthly providence of the people of India, the British Government, is in honor bound to protect them from the vagaries of officials armed from head to foot with dictatorial powers. We, however, think Mr. Marr has, by his sentiments, betrayed the fact that he is not fit to administer justice in this country. How can an official, doing judicial work, do it, whose belief is that natives are liars? And what chance has a native before a Magistrate who holds such an opinion, if his opponent happens to be a European?

A FULL account of the scene that was witnessed last Monday evening in Beadon Street and Beadon Square, in connection with the Birth-day ceremony of Lord Gauranga, ought to be kept on record. Unfortunately, however, it defied description. Fancy two lacs of men, perhaps more, gone mad with holy joy under the influence of religion, each shewing in his own peculiar way the emotion that was working within him—some weeping, some laughing, some dancing and some rolling on the ground, and then you will get some idea of the nature of the spectacle that presented to our eyes. Of course, a large number had come there under the influence of a religious feeling; and it is equally true that some had come only to see the fun. But very few succeeded in escaping from the torrent of religious fervour that was created on the occasion—a torrent which carried every one along with it. Some accounts of the scene are given elsewhere, but they all fall far short of the reality. The feeling that pervaded was that of holy joy—intense joy—which enabled the vast crowd to realize that God, the common Father of man, was good, and that all men were brethren. All that we need say is that lucky are they who witnessed the scene, the like of which none ever saw or dreamt or conceived or thought possible.

SOMETIME ago, the *Pioneer* gave currency to a report, which it subsequently contradicted, that there had been some difference of opinion between Sir John Woodburn and Lord Curzon with regard to the plague measures to be adopted in Calcutta. It was alleged that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was dead against segregation and house-to-house visitation, and that Lord Curzon was for them. It was even hinted that

the friction might end in the resignation of the Lieutenant-Governor if his policy of non-interference were meddled with. The real situation, we learn from a reliable source, is this. It is quite true that, Sir John Woodburn is not for inaugurating the measures which denuded Calcutta of three-fourths of its population last year, but Lord Curzon has kept his mind perfectly open as regards the matter. What His Excellency intends to do is to take no action at all till the Plague Commission have submitted their report, and that he means to abide by their decision. If the Plague Commission recommend segregation and inspection, they will be enforced, otherwise not.

SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

At the next meeting of the Council to be held on Monday, the 27th March, the Hon'ble Sir James Westland will move that the Financial Statement for 1898-1899 be taken into consideration.

The following questions will be asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Gangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis:—
1. Will Government be pleased to say if they intend introducing in the Central Provinces a law of entail for the preservation of old estates, as they intend doing with regard to estates of old and loyal proprietors in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh?
2. Will Government be pleased to say if the main reason which actuates Government to assess sir lands in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh is the fact that sir lands cultivated by proprietors by means of servants do not generally yield the same profits as self-cultivated lands?
3. Will Government be pleased to say if the inquiry promised by Sir Antony MacDonnell as Home Member to my question (c) on the 15th of February, 1894, has been instituted, and, if so, will it be pleased to state the result of that inquiry?

It is understood that his Excellency the Viceroy will visit Nepal next year.

The Municipal Committee of Lahore have decided not to employ a special native health officer for Lahore.

At Delhi, on the 8th instant, some Paltans lying in wait near the Delhi Gate, attacked a *jak*-runner a little after dusk and relieved him of a letter bag. Suspicion rests on native regiment.

The Government of India have approved of the frontier outposts of Forts Garnett and Muhammedal Bahadur Khol, Latammar Jam Knel-and Kuram, being made over to the Border Military Police, the military detachments rejoining at Kohat and Edwardesabad.

The Government of the India have sanctioned the allotment of Rs. 120,000 for the establishment of Government dairy farm for benefit of the troops in the Lucknow garrison, and the Bihapur house has been made over to the Contonment authorities to be made the headquarters of the new enterprise.

GUARD COLIN WHITE, late an employee on the North Western Railway, has been convicted of theft, and sentenced to twelve months' rigorous imprisonment by the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar for stealing in September last a bag belonging to Mr. Mine, Manager of the Dhairial Mills, while the Guard was in charge of the train. The bag contained four currency notes of Rs. 100 each, and bonds and securities to the value of Rs. 30,000.

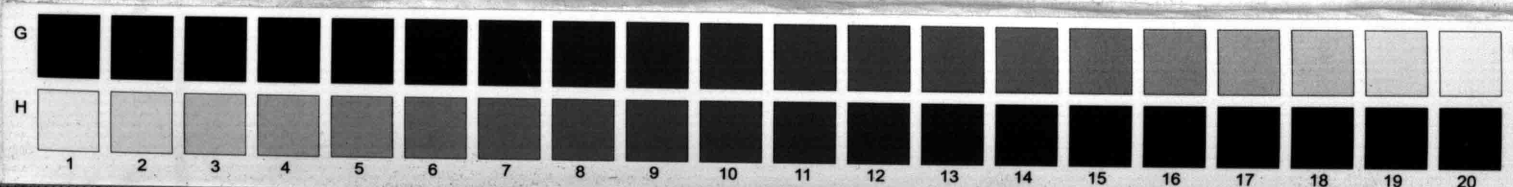
THE Ganges-Gogra Doab lines of the Bengal and North West Railway systems have been rapidly pushed on to completion by the energy of Mr. Izat, Chief Engineer and the several divisional engineers. Trains are already running on the respective sections, diversions having been constructed over streams till permanent bridges are ready. The formal opening takes place at Mau junction on the 4th of April by Sir Antony MacDonnell, the Lieutenant-Governor, who is coming from Lucknow and proceeds by special train from Benares. Specials will also be run from Gorakhpur, Ballia, and Ghazipur simultaneously bringing the guests invited to witness the ceremony and to breakfast, which terminates the proceedings.

ADVICES from gold fields state that Mr. A. Llewellyn, of the Cornumand Mine, proceeds to England with the object of floating a syndicate to prospect for gold in Waudhal in Hyderabad. Mr. Llewellyn also intends to apply for concessions for working the iron industry in Shimoga and Kadur districts in Mysore Province. Hajee Ismail Sait, of the English Warehouse on the Kolar Gold Fields, has also floated a syndicate in England to prospect for gold to the west of the Champion Reef Mine, Miss Anstey, a philanthropic lady, carrying on Mission works and Orphanages in Bangalore and Kolar, has purchased two villages in Bowringpet Taluq for Rs. 60,000 to prospect for gold for the benefit of her Mission and Orphanages.

At a meeting of the Madras Legislative Council in December, the Hon. Subba Row put questions relating to the alleged misconduct of Lieutenants Hogg and Francis, of the 4th Hussars, while on a shikar expedition in the Chintalputti division of the Godavari District. The Government of Madras referred the matter to the Military authorities and the Board of Revenue for investigation. The Government has now embodied the result of these investigations in the following order:—The Government has received reports from both the Collector and the Military authorities and finds there is no reason to believe Lieutenants Hogg and Francis set fire to any reserved forest, and that it is not true that the District Forest Officer ordered their prosecution for any such offence. It would appear that some misunderstanding arose in the matter of furnishing supplies owing mainly to the incompetence and culpable carelessness of the Deputy Tahsilidar, but there was no trespassing into that officer's house; and the connect of allegations are a tissue gross exaggerations.

What to Do Until the Doctor Arrives.

It is very hard to stand idly by and see our dear ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of the doctor. An Albany (N. Y.) dairyman called at a drug store there for a doctor to come and see his child, then very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor in the left word for him to come at once on his return. He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which he hoped would give some relief until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours he returned, saying the doctor need not come, as the child was much better. The drugist, Mr. Otto Scholz, says the family has since recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbours and friends until he has a constant demand for it from that part of the country. For sale by
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P. W. D.—Mr. D. B. Horn is appointed to act as Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department. Mr. K. H. Stephen officiates for Mr. Horn.

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION.—His Honour Sir John Woodburn has graciously consented to be a patron of the Indian Industrial Association.

A PHENOMENON.—The *Kangal* of Cooch Behar reports that there is a jack tree, or more properly, sapling not quite two cubits high, with a stem like a man's finger, which has borne fruit.

CALCUTTA BOARD OF EXAMINERS.—The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rampai has been appointed President of the Board of Examiners, Calcutta, vice the Hon'ble Mr. Justice O'Kinealy, who has resigned the appointment.

FINANCIAL SECRETARSHIP.—In consequence of the delay in Mr. Finlay's return to India from tour of duty, the Hon. Mr. H. H. Risley, C. I. E., will proceed to Simla, and not make over charge of the Financial Secretaryship here, as was previously announced.

THE FINANCE MEMBER.—Mr. Clinton Dawkins, successor to the Hon'ble Sir James Westland, arrived in Calcutta on Sunday evening and is staying at Government House as His Excellency the Viceroy's guest.

CENTRAL RAILWAY SCHEME.—The Bengal National Chamber of Commerce have elected Mr. J. Ghosal as their representative to sit on the Committee appointed to investigate and report on the proposal for a permanent bridge over the Hugli and a central station for Calcutta.

ROBBERIES.—Three men of Watgunge were charged yesterday before Moulvi Serajul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore, with having systematically committed robberies, thefts and burglaries in Watgunge. The first accused was sentenced to two years' and the other two to one year's rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. to each, and in default to undergo three months' further imprisonment.

A. B. RY.—It is probable that on the removal of the headquarters of the Assam-Bengal Railway to Chittagong, which takes place at the close of the present year, the commodious offices of the Company in Shillong will be taken over by the Assam Administration and utilized for the offices of the Conservator of Forests, Assam.

HIGH COURT.—Mr. C. A. Wilkins, who has been appointed to officiate for Mr. Justice O'Kinealy, took his seat day before yesterday with Mr. Justice Prinsep on the High Court Bench, taking criminal business.—Mr. E. P. Chapman, of the Indian Civil Service, has been appointed to officiate as Registrar on the Appellate Side of the Court, during the absence on leave of Mr. T. W. Richardson.

ACCOUNTS BRANCH.—Mr. T. H. Biggs, Accountant General, Madras, is granted privilege leave for 2 months and 14 days, with effect from the 21st April, 1899. Mr. W. H. Dawson, Deputy Accountant General Madras, is appointed to officiate as Accountant General, Madras. Mr. G. C. Ray, Assistant Accountant General and Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, Bengal, is posted as Deputy Accountant General, Madras. Mr. J. Bridgman, a Superintendent in the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, is appointed to officiate as a Supernumerary Chief Superintendent in that office, with effect from the 1st March, 1899.

KIDDERPORE STRAM TRAMWAY PROJECT.—A petition signed by a large number of respectable inhabitants, both European and Native, of Kidderpore, Doorgapore, Borisa and Behala, was made to the District Magistrate of Alipore for the construction of a Steam Tramway from Kidderpore Bridge to Amtollah through the above-mentioned localities, for the convenience of the public. The District Magistrate has directed the District Engineer to make a local enquiry into the matter and to fix the alignment of the proposed line so as to best suit the purposes of the public. Mr. Charles D'Cruz, projector of the Boranagore Steam Tramway, has submitted his tender to the Chairman of the District Board, 24 Parganahs, in this connection.

ALLEGED HIGHHANDEDNESS.—The Jalpaiguri correspondent of the *Hindustan* brings to light what may be styled the highhandedness of another tea-planter of Jalpaiguri. "Mr. Dully," says the correspondent, "is the Manager of a tea-garden at Luchmipar and borrowed Rs. 4,207 from a *mahajan*, named Tansook Dass, on hand-notes. The interest due amounted to Rs. 270. The European Manager requested his creditor to come to his house to take payment of the above sums due to him on the 21st December last. The creditor Tansook Dass accordingly went to his house, but disagreement soon arose between him and the Manager as to the amount of interest due on this loan. Harsh words were exchanged, and the Manager, in a fit of temper, forcibly took away from his creditor the hand-notes and abused him. The creditor thereupon brought a charge against the Manager in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri who has charged the defendant in this case under section 379 of the Indian Penal Code.

OFFICIAL VISIT.—His Excellency the Viceroy paid a visit to the office of the Survey of India on Friday afternoon.

THE MAILS.—The incoming English mail with London dates to the 17th instant, is expected at Bombay at 6 o'clock on Saturday morning.

DEPARTURE.—Mr. Chalmers, the retiring Legal Member, left Calcutta last night for Bombay whence he starts for England in the mail steamer of April 1st.

SLOW RECOVERY.—Sir Salter Pyne, we understand, sails for England in the *Massilia* on the 6th. He has not made such rapid progress as was expected, and is still very low.

RANAGHAT-KATHAR RY.—The Engineers engaged upon the undertaking are authorised to enter upon land in the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Malda and Dinajpur for the survey of the proposed Ranaghat, Ganges, and Kathar Railway.

FINANCE MEMBERSHIP.—Mr. Clinton Dawkins, the successor of Sir James Westland, assumed charge of the Financial Membership in the Government of India yesterday morning under the usual salute of fifteen guns to which all Ordinary Members of the Governor-General's Council are entitled. Mr. Clinton Dawkins is now staying at Belvedere as his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's guest.

BENGAL COUNCIL.—Mr. Donald Fraser Mackenzie has been appointed a member of the Bengal Council, vice Mr. M. C. Turner, resigned. The Hon. Rai Durgagati Banerjee, Collector of Stamp Revenue, Superintendent of Excise Revenue, and Deputy Collector of Land Revenue, Calcutta, and Mr. James Pratt, Officiating Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, have also been appointed members of the Bengal Council.

FIRE AT EKBALPORE.—About noon on Friday, information was received at the Central Police Station L II Bazar, that a fire had broken out in a tustee at Ekbalpore. The Calcutta Fire Brigade, under Superintendent Millard, with an engine in charge of Mr. R. Clare, Chief Engineer, proceeded to the scene of conflagration, where the manual engine from Watgunge was already at work. Within an hour the fire was extinguished, but not ill seven huts had been destroyed.

ROAD-CONSTRUCTION IN ASSAM.—The construction of the Shillong-Sylhet cart road (otherwise known as Kench's trace) is not progressing without some of the difficulties connected with such undertakings in Assam. It is understood that labour troubles have arisen and that incendiaryism is rife, one of the contractors having his coolie lines burnt down by Sylhet coolies. News of an assault on an European subordinate of the Public Works Department has also reached Shillong; the ringleaders have been arrested, but the matter will probably be settled departmentally.

THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.—A meeting of the inhabitants and residents of Burdwan was held on Sunday, the 26th March last at the Bungo Gopal Town Hall, to consider the desirability of holding the next Provincial Conference at Burdwan. It was proposed that Babu S. S. Bhushan Basu and seconded by Rai Nalmakshya Basu, Bahadur, that the next Provincial Conference be invited to meet at Burdwan during the approaching Mohurram holidays, and that notice be issued accordingly.

RAILWAY COLLISION.—Shortly after midnight on Thursday a rather serious collision occurred between two goods trains at the Canal Junction station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. It would appear that the driver of No. 75 up goods train of the East Indian Railway ran his train into the station and collided with No. 63 up goods train which was in motion at the time on the same line. As a result of the collision the engine and a wagon of the former train were derailed blocking up both the up and down lines for a considerable time. The Sealdah Railway authorities on being requisitioned despatched assistance and succeeded in clearing one of the lines. All incoming trains in consequence of the block on the lines suffered a little delay. An official enquiry will shortly be held in the matter.

DACOITY AT GOVERDANGA.—On Sunday last a daring dacoity was committed at Ichapur, a village near Goverdanga, at the house of Babu Dwarka Nath Nag, a rich money-lender of the place. At midnight the robbers broke into the house of the gentleman, with torches in hand, and rent the air with shouts of "Din! Din!" and "Kali! Kali!" At this sound, the son and daughter-in-law of Dwarka Nath fled by the back-door, while the ruffians caught hold of the owner but did not hurt him. They then broke open their safe containing gold ornaments and hard cash, and decamped with the booty. The value of the property stolen is estimated from eight to ten thousand rupees. The police have arrested a blacksmith of Goverdanga.

JUSTICE JENKINS' ELEVATION.—Yesterday before their Lordships, Justices Ghose and Jenkins, who have been engaged for sometime past in hearing the *Betia Raj* Case, had commenced to hear the case, Mr. Hill rose to congratulate Mr. Justice Jenkins on his Lordship's elevation to the Chief Justiceship of the Bombay High Court. As Sir Griffith Evans who was then present in court declined to receive the congratulations from Mr. Hill his junior, the former stood up and expressed congratulations on behalf of the Bar. Mr. Justice Ghose as senior Judge replied. He joined in the congratulations, but expressed regret that the Calcutta High Court should be deprived of a Judge like Mr. Justice Jenkins. Mr. Justice Ghose also intimated that Mr. Justice Jenkins would be going away in three weeks' time. Mr. Justice Jenkins expressed his thanks for the kind expressions.

THE Sessions Judge of Meerut is trying Hussain Dass, pleader, and his son Pyari Lal, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively, of the defunct Meerut Bank Instalment Company, for defalcations to the amount of Rs. 40,000. It also appears that the Directors were allowed to borrow nearly Rs. 1,00,000 without giving security.

Plague News.

CALCUTTA RETURNS.

THE number of plague cases and deaths in Calcutta on the 20th instant was 12 and 11 respectively, distributed as follows over the various wards:—1 attack and 1 death in ward No. 1; one death in No. 2; 1 and 1 in No. 3; 2 attacks in No. 4; 4 and 7 in No. 5; 2 and 2 in No. 6; 2 and 1 in No. 9; and 1 death in No. 16. Of suspected cases there were 27 with 26 deaths: 4 cases and 5 deaths in ward No. 1; and in No. 2; 9 and 8 in No. 3, 2 and 2 in No. 4; 6 and 5 in No. 5; 4 and 4 in No. 6; 1 and 1 in No. 14. The total mortality from all causes was 96 against 8, the average of the last five years.

A PLAGUE MEETING.

A well-attended and representative meeting of the inhabitants of Sintohe (Ward No. 11) in the Cossipore-Chitpore Municipality was held last Sunday evening in the premises of the Sintohe Vernacular School, under the Presidency of Babu Lalit Mohan Ghosh, Municipal Commissioner of the Ward. The President explained to the people their duties should plague ever broke out in the Ward. Two resolutions were unanimously recorded and a strong Ward Committee was formed. With a hearty vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Babu Tarini Charn Das, land holder, and seconded by Babu Kedarnath Das, Hon. Secretary of the School. The meeting separated at 8-30 P.M.

KARACHI RETURNS.

TUESDAY'S plague returns for Karachi show 57 cases and 27 deaths; the total being 753 cases and 494 deaths. One case, the first in this outbreak, occurred in Sadar on Monday.

FIRE AT A CAMP.

THE observation camp at Dandipura, outside Panch gani on the road to Mahabeshwar, has been burnt. Two hundred people have been sheltered under trees.

INCREASING AT POONA.

TWENTY fresh cases and thirteen deaths were reported in the City of Poona on Tuesday. There were eight fresh admission to the General Plague Hospital. Sixty-four remain, five have died.

BOMBAY FIGURES.

TUESDAY'S plague figures for Bombay show ninety new cases and 114 deaths. The total mortality was 308, against 239 on the same date last year.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. W. Egerton, Magte and Collr, Murshidabad, is allowed leave for three months. Mr. J. A. Ezachiel, Jt Magte and Dy Collr, Mymensing, acting for him.

Mr. H. P. Duval, Asst Magte and Collr, is appointed to have charge of Serampore on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Jalpaiguri.

The order of the 13 March, granting three months' privilege leave to Maulvi Aminul Islam, Offg. Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Backergunge, is cancelled. Babu Rajendra Chandra Ghose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Dinajpur, is transferred to Khulna.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Kafarmah, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Khulna, is appointed to have charge of Bagherhat.

Mr. Nanda Krishna Bose, Magte and Collr, who has, under the order of the 16th February 1899, been appointed to act as Magte and Collr of Nadia, is allowed leave for two months and three days, under section 3 article 627 of the Civil Service Regulations in extension of the leave granted to him.

Maulvi Sheikh Abdullah, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Purnea, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Ramesh Chandra Das, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Purnea. This cancels so much to the order of the 28th February 1899, as relates to the posting of Babu Ramesh Chandra Das to Birbhum.

The following confirmations, promotions and appointments are sanctioned in the Indian Civil Service but the officers concerned will continue to act in their respective higher appointments or grades until further orders:

Appointed to the second grade of District and Sessions Judges.

Mr. T. W. Richardson.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the second grade of District and Sessions Judges:

Mr. Lokendronath Palit, Mr. F. MacBlaine.

Confirmed in the second grade of Magistrate and Collectors.

Mr. C. H. Allen.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the second grade of Magistrates and Collectors.

Mr. H. J. MacIntosh.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the third grade of Magistrates and Collectors.

Mr. E. P. Chapman, Mr. N. Bonham-Carter.

Confirmed in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. J. E. Paillimore.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. J. E. Webster; Mr. H. D. de M. Carey;

Mr. W. Maxwell, Mr. C. A. Bell.

Confirmed in the second grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. R. B. Hughes.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the second grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. Kian Chandra De, Mr. J. J. Patel.

Babu Narayan Chunder Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed leave for six months, under article 389 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Maulvi Shah Mohammad Yakub, Special Sub-Registrar of Champaran, transferred to Monghyr.

Maulvi Shah Mohammad Quam, Offg Spl Sub-Registrar of Hazaribagh, acting for him.

Babu Girindhar Lal, Special Sub-Registrar of Monghyr, is transferred to Hazaribagh.

The orders of the 17th February, 1899, transferring Rai Bhuvan Mohan Raha Bahadur, Special Sub-Registrar of Bankura, and Babu Alobinash Chunder Mitter, Special Sub-Registrar of Ranchi, to Ranch and Bankura, respectively, are cancelled.

Maulvi Shah Mohammad Yakub, Special Sub-Registrar, is allowed leave for two weeks under article 370 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Mr. J. Wilson (Indian Educational Service) is appointed to be Inspector of Schools, Patna Circle.

The services of Dr. W. Booth, Professor, and now Officiating Principal, Presidency College, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Mr. E. B. Havell, Supt of Government School of Art, is allowed leave for six months under article 348 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Signor O. Ghilardi, Assistant Superintendent of Government School of Art, is appointed to act as Superintendent of that school, during the absence on leave, of Mr. E. B. Havell, or until further orders.

Mr. Sultan Sayyid Saadatt Hossein, Munsif, is transferred to Chapra.

Maulvi Mirza Badar Bakht, substantive pro tempore Munsif, is appointed to be substantive of tempore Additional Munsif of Golindapur and Chaitabasa in Chota Nagpur, but to be on deputation to Chaitabasa.

Babu Bunwari Lal Banerjee, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Faridpur.

Babu Aswini Kumar Guha, Munsif of Faridpur, is appointed to act as Sub Judge of Murshidabad.

Babu Ganeshyam Gupta, Munsif of Muzaffarpur, is transferred to Khulna, but is appointed to act as Sub Judge of Patna, on deputation as an Additional Subordinate Judge at Mymensingh, during the absence, on furlough, of Babu Bipradas Chatterji.

Babu Bina Chaman Majumdar, Munsif of Khulna, in the district of Jessore, is transferred to Muzaffarpur.

Babu Rajendra Nath Roy, B. L. is appointed to act as a Munsif of Khulna, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Ganeshyam Gupta.

Mr. Mahomed Zahoor, Barrister-at-law, is appointed to act as a Munsif of Monghyr.

In modification of orders, dated 20th March 1899, Babu Sarat Chandra Mukherji, Munsif of Monghyr, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Chittagong.

In supersession of the order of the 13th March 1899, Babu Mohendra Nath Mitter, Sub Judge is transferred to Murshidabad.

The order of the 13th March 1899, appointing Babu Kali Kumar Bose, Sub Judge of Dacca, on deputation as an Add Sub Judge of Birbhum, to be Subordinate Judge of Murshidabad, is cancelled.

Babu Mohendra Nath Mitter, Sub Judge, who has, under the orders of this date, been appointed to be Sub Judge of Murshidabad, is allowed leave for one month and twenty-four days, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Shishu Chunder Chakravarti, Asst Engr, third grade, is transferred, in the interests of the public service, from the Northern to the Sone Circle.

The services of Mr. L. J. Clarke, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, now employed as Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Jails, Bengal, has been appointed as Assistant Secretary in this Department.

Dr. G. J. St. C. Sedgely, Assistant Engineer, second grade, Upper Rajshahi Division, is granted privilege leave for three months.

Mr. D. B. Horn, Supting Engr, 3rd class, Bengal, is appointed to officiate as Chief Engineer and Secretary to that Government in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

Mr. K. H. Stephen, Executive Engineer, 1st grade, Bengal, is appointed to officiate as a Supting Engineer.

Mr. E. C. Trotter, Dy Examiner of Accounts, is transferred from the office of the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Bengal, to that of the Examiner, Telegraph Accounts.

NOTES FROM THE "DAWNING LIGHT"

A SPIRIT TRANSACTING BUSINESS.

DR. E. GALLOP tells the following in the *Philosophical Journal*:

Nearly a year ago I received a letter from Mrs. P. Bowers, of Green Cove Springs, Fla. I had formerly known her at Osage, Iowa, and we had been in correspondence almost every week until April. In this letter she said that she, her daughter and son-in-law and adopted daughter, were to start for California overland with a team and covered wagon I advised them not to think of coming that manner, but they started. Previous to leaving they shipped their household goods, consisting of a piano, etc., to Santa Ana in my care, and I stored them in my barn. Before starting, Mrs. Bowers made arrangements to have her mail come to me. I was to open any letters and those of importance I was to forward to the place ahead on their route, which she would designate from time to time.

I heard from them quite regularly until they reached Louisiana. Then for five weeks I heard nothing; two of my letters being returned to me, uncalled for. I finally received a letter from the adopted daughter and also one from the proprietor of the Texas Pacific Hotel, Big Spring, Texas, (Mr. Birdsall) stating that Mr. Stull, the son-in-law, had died, and in a few days Mrs. Bowers died. The daughter, Mrs. Stull, and the adopted daughter then took the cars for Santa Ana, going as far as the above mentioned hotel, where Mrs. Stull died. This left the adopted daughter without a relative in this world and among entire strangers, but Mr. Birdsall had kindly given her a home.

We corresponded about the goods and they requested me to dispose of a part and ship the rest back to Texas. I asked if the daughter was legally adopted but it seemed they did not know; so the question was where and from whom was I to get the authority to dispose of the goods?

After receiving the intelligence of the deaths I had a letter addressed to Mrs. Stull containing a money order for five dollars and saying that the writer would forward five dollars per month for four months and the balance all in a lump, but did not say what the balance was. Of course, I returned the letter to the sender and said that Mrs. Stull was dead. I heard through Mr. Birdsall that distant relatives were trying to get the adopted daughter to sign over her claim to the property.

The last letter Mr. Birdsall wrote to me he wrote on three sheets of letter paper, but only sent two sheets in the envelope. I have been thus particular in these preliminaries to show the reader how this came out, through spirit or mediumistic communication.

For two nights and nearly two days my mind was fully occupied with how I was to dispose of the property and get it legally off my hands. I finally went to a medium (Mrs. Barrett) and asked her if there was any possibility of assistance through spirit communication. She replied yes, if I had a letter from Mrs. Bowers. So I went home and got two letters and went back. The moment we sat down there were three sharp, quick raps and the medium said the parties were ready to talk with me and began to describe Mrs. Stull. I said that was not necessary as she was a child. I said that was not necessary as she was a child.

She then gave a complete description of Mrs. Bowers and we were ready for business. Mrs. Bowers said (through the medium, of course) that she wanted me to write to the District Attorney of Green Cove Springs, Fla., to have him find the adoption papers which were recorded there and see that there was an administrator appointed, for there was about \$5,000 worth of property at the Springs and in Nebraska; also a note of \$75 from a man in Oklahoma to whom they had sold a horse. (This was the man who had sent the money order mentioned above.) She wanted this property equally divided between the adopted daughter and a son in Pennsylvania; but she did not want her distant relatives to get any part of it, and that they were now trying to have the adopted daughter sign away her rights. She further stated that when Mr. Birdsall sent his last letter he left one sheet of the letter on the stand and did not inclose it in the envelope. She wanted me to take my pay out of the proceeds of the sale of the piano for my trouble, storage, etc. Also that the District Attorney was to get his fees for attending to the business.

The result is that so far there has been an administrator appointed who has authorized lawyers, Messrs. Taylor & Fargy, a firm doing business in Los Angeles and Santa Ana, to see to the disposing of the good in my care, settle with me, etc.

Mrs. Barrett, the medium, said she was in Los Angeles attending a spiritual meeting given by a medium from San Francisco, and as a test he told a lady there that a cousin of hers had died in Louisiana in the month of August in a covered wagon, and was at the meeting. The medium described her as Mrs. Barrett had seen her for me.

After Mrs. Bowers had finished talking with me about her business I asked her if she was satisfied with her adopted daughter's home. She replied that she was, for she had a good home. She then bade me good-bye and said she was going back to Texas where she was stopping with her adopted daughter.

As soon as she was gone, my wife, Lizzie, had a short talk with me. She says language cannot express the happiness she enjoys in the true life beyond.

I wish to state that Mrs. Bowers was a firm

believer in Spiritualism long before she passed out of the physical body. The medium knew nothing whatever of the case, neither did I know the facts above communicated, so it could not possibly be thought transference, as some affirm. I have given the facts; the readers can draw their own conclusions. Mrs. Bowers in one of her letters stated that she had a cousin living in Los Angeles.

A STRANGE STORY.

The following strange story, copied from the London (Eng.) "Daily Chronicle" is going the rounds of the press:

"A remarkable story is agitating a section of society just now. A young lady of rank, who is engaged to be married to an officer serving in India, recently had her photograph taken by a leading London photographer before going out to India to be married. To her horror, when the photographs were sent home there was plainly to be seen standing behind her in a very menacing attitude, the phantom of her fiancée. The young lady was photographed no less than three times under apparently ordinary circumstances, but each time the same form is said to have appeared in the negative. The prospective bride has postponed her departure until inquiries can be made regarding this singular affair."

SAVED BY DREAM.

The following curious experience is told by Mr. Meliton Prior, the distinguished war artist Says M. A. P.

"I was going out to the Zulu war in one of the Union Company's vessels, the German. On board this steamer I dreamed on two occasions—that is to say, I had two dreams precisely similar in their tenor—that I was shot dead and then buried. In my dreams I saw myself killed and witnessed my own funeral at the Royal Hotel in Durban. I had a letter from my mother, in which she stated that she had had a dream, which I found to be precisely like my own, and begged me to be careful, and, if possible, not to go to the relief of Etchowé.

"This dream coincidence certainly had an effect on my mind, and in a weak moment I decided I would not go. I'll be hanged if I go up to Etchowé, I said to myself, and I did not. It so happened that I heard of a gentleman, then in Durban, who could sketch very well, and when I put myself in communication with him he offered to take my place and send his sketches down to me, so that I could touch them up and send them to England. I communicated with the proprietors of the "Illustrated London News," informing them of the whole accident and what I had done. Well, Mr. Wm. Ingram, (how Sir Wm. Ingram sent me a cablegram, "Regret," it ran, "you not going into battle at Etchowé. Perhaps our special artist is preserved for better things to come." It is a very curious thing that out of sixty or more battles, I've been present at and witnessed and sketched, such an idea as "keeping out of it" never occurred to me. The man who went up for me was one of the first killed in the fighting."

WILL THIS BILL STOP THE PLAGUE?

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has issued a "manifesto" expressing their "greatest alarm" at the prospect of delay in passing the Calcutta Municipal Bill, seeing that plague has made its reappearance in this city with increasing mortality. They seem to entertain a shrewd suspicion that the recent discussion in the House of Commons in regard to the Bill and the demonstration in the local Town Hall on Tuesday last (the very day on which the Committee's resolution was hurriedly published) may have the effect of inducing the authorities to take such steps in the matter as will lead to the postponement of the Bill for some time.

But what after all has this Bill to do with any measures "for the protection of the lives of the inhabitants and the trade of the port" against plague? It is stated that "measures for the cleansing and keeping clean of the town" are demanded, suggesting by implication that such measures cannot be taken under the present law and under the present system of administration. But the Committee should know that since September, 1896, when plague first broke out in Bombay, the Calcutta Corporation has spent over one and a half lakhs for the special cleansing of the town, and a sum of over three-fourths of a lakh has been added permanently to the ordinary annual expenditure of the Conservancy Department—all in view of the outbreak of plague in this city. The general impression is that ample provision has been made for the cleaning of the city, which is now done twice a day, and I have reasons to believe that the Chairman of the Corporation also is of the same opinion. The Committee of the Chamber should also know that in the matter of this conservancy work the executive has an absolutely free hand and does not meet with any interference by the Commissioners. So it is wholly immaterial whether the passing of the Bill is expedited or not. If the daily conservancy arrangements in the town are not what they should be (and my own conviction is that they are much below the mark), the passing of the Bill into law will not improve matters; because there is nothing in the Bill which will make the executive more energetic and vigorous, more regular and business-like, than they are at present. On the contrary, freed from any little general control or supervision that the Commissioners may now exercise, they are likely to be much less energetic than now.

The Committee of the Chamber, however, should not lose sight of the fact that to successfully grapple with plague the mere cleansing of the town is nothing unless supplemented by more drastic improvements of a permanent character, such as the opening out of dark, ill-ventilated and congested areas, reeking with the germs of disease, which are to be found in several parts of the town. Such is the delicate and unanimous opinion of the entire medical profession, and the experience gained in Bombay only strengthens that view of the case. But for such urgently necessary and important works, no provision has been made in the Bill, nor was made to deal with it in this Bill. This is what Sir Alexander Mackenzie said in the Council on the 26th of February, 1899:—

"The question of opening up the unhealthy and congested areas in Calcutta, in some of which 75 per cent of the space is occupied by solid masonry, is a very difficult one, and no attempt has been made to deal with it in this Bill. A well-considered scheme for meeting a similar difficulty is now under discussion in Bombay, and a Bill for giving effect to it has been introduced into Council there. It seems probable that whatever action may be taken hereafter in Calcutta will have to proceed on the same general lines, that is to say, a special Commission or Trust will have to be formed, and funds will have to be placed at their disposal. Where are the funds to come from? In Calcutta there is no fund for the Government to make over for the Trust to manage and improve and thus convert it into a valuable asset, on the security of which money may be borrowed and applied to the formation of new streets. The only alternative seems to be the imposition of some tax which might be administered by

funds can be devised, the prospect of improving the congested areas of Calcutta must be indefinitely deferred.

Thus, so far as "the protection of the lives of the inhabitants and the trade of the port" from plague is concerned, it would be beyond the scope of this Bill to render any material help by providing for works of permanent structural improvements in the city. Why then raise false issues to confuse and embarrass Government? Surely, it is a proceeding which will not commend itself to fair-minded men. If the Committee were really anxious about "the protection of the lives of the inhabitants of Calcutta" they should have pressed upon Government the absolute necessity of devising means for the abatement of overcrowding, the opening out of congested insanitary areas and doing away with plague spots, which, as stated above, are the only effective measures by which plague can be stamped out.

In this connection, the Committee of the Chamber may well be reminded of the recommendation of the Building Commission, to which Sir Alexander Mackenzie made a prominent reference in the extract from his speech in the Bengal Council given above. The paragraph 133 of the Commissioners' Report runs thus:—

"So far back as 1803, we have the opinion of the then Governor-General that it was the duty of Government to contribute in a just proportion to any expense which may be requisite for the purpose of completing the improvements of the town. We submit that now, after the expiration of nearly a century since that minute was signed by the Marquis of Wellesley, it is equally the duty of the Government to come to the aid of the citizens of Calcutta in order to relieve them from the dangers to which they are subject. In the letter written by the Secretary of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary of the Government of Bengal, dated the 31st of January, 1897, the Committee of that Chamber say that they bear in mind that taxation in the city is almost at a maximum, and that it presses very heavily upon all classes, so that the question of money is one to which probably the Government may be in the general interests of the Empire, feel called upon to come to the assistance of the city. That it is in the interests of the Empire that Calcutta should be rendered as wholesome as possible, there can be no doubt. A serious epidemic such as plague, if its ravages extended to Calcutta, would seriously dislocate the whole trade of the East. The Imperial revenues would be impaired, and the damage done to English Commerce, and thus to the interests of England, would be incalculable."

The above recommendation was made in December, 1897, but so far, it is greatly to be regretted, Government has done nothing whatever in the matter.

The Committee of the Calcutta Trades Association also have followed suit, and in almost the same strain as that of the sister institution—the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce—have deprecated the "movement which is calculated to lead to unnecessary delay or to interfere with the due consideration and passing of the Bill." They seem to be averse to any investigation or enquiry into the whole case by an independent Commission, because they say "the Government of India have approved of the principle of the Bill, the Secretary of State has accepted the view taken by the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, while His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in referring to the decision, which an 'overwhelming majority' of his Council had arrived at in the matter, stated that he was independently of opinion that the decision was right." But the Committee of the Trades Association should not overlook the fact that all that opinion, approval and sanction have been given under gross misapprehension and upon a statement of the case which has really no substantial foundation in fact; in truth, the whole case, as made out by the Local Government in support of the Bill has been publicly challenged by a large and important section of the community. If, therefore, Government be inclined to appoint a Commission of enquiry, should the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association, representing a large section of the European community, put obstacles in the way? Would such action be consistent with the sense of justice and fairplay which pre-eminently characterise the nation whom these institutions represent?

With regard to the concluding paragraph of the letter of the Committee of the Trades Association, I may venture to observe that it is a very useful practical suggestion, and I am persuaded that any suggestion, recommendation, order, advice, direction (whatever you may choose to call it) that the Local Government may be pleased to issue to the effect that better sanitary arrangements of the city in the present emergency, will be cheerfully and thankfully received and carried out by the Commissioners, who are as anxious, it not more, about the lives of the inhabitants of the city as either the Bengal Chamber of Commerce or the Trades Association.

NALIN BHARI SIRCAR.
11 Clive Street, Calcutta, 27th March.

MRS. NICKELS, wife of Mr. Christopher Nickels of Tara Hall, Mussoorie, and of Pusavea Factory, near Jaunpur, has filed a petition for divorce before Mr. E. O. E. Leggat the Sessions Judge of Saharanpur, on the ground of her husband's cruelty and misconduct with one Mrs. Parsick a divorcee. Mr. B. R. Bomonji, Barrister-at-Law, is Counsel for Mrs. Nickels.

MR. N. SUBRAMANYAM, B.A., B.L., Barrister-at-Law, Madras, deserves well of his countrymen. He has offered to found a scholarship in memory of his deceased wife to be known as "the Anne Isabella Subramanyam Scholarship" to encourage the study of medicine among Indian Christians "who are natives of the Presidency of Madras or of the Native States of Mysore, Travancore, Cochin or Pudukkottai." He has for the present given Government Promissory Notes of the nominal value of Rs. 6,000 bearing interest at 3½ per cent, and the Government has been pleased to sanction a half grant of Rs. 3,000 in aid of the endowment. The annual interest on the total sum, viz. Rs. 315, will, after payment of the college fees and the price of the text books, leave a balance of Rs. 175, which will be just about sufficient for the board and lodging of one student. As the study in the Medical College extends over a period of five years, Mr. Subramanyam intends to found one such scholarship every year until the whole number amounts to five so as to enable the University to throw open one scholarship for competition annually.

THE establishment of a British school for the study of tropical diseases has long been a desideratum in our medical colleges at home. Many of these diseases are seldom met with in natives of temperate climates, and opportunities for investigating their nature and origin and proper mode of treatment are consequently rare in ordinary hospitals. There is, indeed, a medical school in connection with the Military Hospital at Netley, but this is not available for civilian students, nor for private practitioners who are engaged in a medical career in a tropical colony must necessarily go there by way at first in anxious and doubtful experiment—often, it is to be feared, to the serious cost of their patients. This state of things is now, we hope, about to be amended. The Seamen's Hospital Society for the reception of sick and suffering seamen of all nations, so long established in the Port of London, has, at the suggestion of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, undertaken to open a school for the study of tropical diseases in connection with an extension of the Society is about to make at one of its establishments. It is intended that students entering the College should, as a rule, have completed the general medical education elsewhere, and should undertake the study of tropical diseases as a special course of about 12 months duration to qualify them for colonial practice.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

THE SILCHAR MUNICIPALITY.

SILCHAR, MAR. 26. Silchar is astir over Municipal matters. In a meeting of the Commissioners held yesterday, the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Kamini K Chanda, made an informal statement giving one month's notice of resignation from his office on the ground of unpopularity and want of confidence, which, he alleged, he had incurred. His resignation, if he really intends to stick to it, is much to be deplored, as although his errors in the transaction of Municipal business, specially in the proposed Park scheme, were many, Mr. Chanda is probably the ablest man in Silchar, for the Vice-Chairmanship. On a proposal for supplying the Municipality with fire engines coming up for discussion, it was objected by the majority of Commissioners and lost. It is understood that the Vice-Chairman in anticipation of sanction, ordered one out in consequence of the frequent outbreaks of fires recently.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, MAR. 24. The University sports have resulted in a draw, each side winning five events.

LONDON, MAR. 25. The Daily Graphic states that Russia has finally settled the Newcham Railway difficulty entirely to British satisfaction, the latter expressly intimating his desire to give tangible proof of his peaceful disposition on the eve of the Disarmament Conference. A Convention defining the respective spheres of influence of Great Britain and Russia in China will be signed shortly.

LONDON, MAR. 25. Lord Selborne, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, replying to questions by Lord Stauley of Alderley, said that he was awaiting a report from Sir West Ridgeway, Governor of Ceylon, regarding the deaths of Tewson and Talwatee, and that the Imperial Government supported Governor Ridgeway about land ordinances for Ceylon.

LONDON, MAR. 25. Desperate fighting has taken place to the northwards of Manila. The American troops, after clearing the rebel trenches, and capturing the railroad, swept the Filipinos towards Malabon.

The American loss is estimated at a hundred, and on the side of the Filipinos at three hundred.

LONDON, MAR. 25. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will present the Budget Statement in the House of Commons on the 13th April.

LONDON, MAR. 25. In the University boat race, rowed today, Cambridge led throughout the race, and won by four lengths.

LONDON, MAR. 25. The London Government Bill has passed the second reading in the House of Commons by 245 to 118 votes.

The re-hearing of the investigation into the stranding of the P. and O. steamship China by the Admiralty Court, has concluded. The court has decided that Mr. Crawford, the second officer of the China, did not fail in his duty, and disagrees with the finding of the Court at Aden in the case of Mr. Crawford. As the Master's certificate has been suspended, the Court has made no further order regarding him.

LONDON, MAR. 26. The American troops at Manila are advanced slowly against the insurgents, owing to the difficult nature of the country. Their losses in the recent engagements were over two hundred. Fighting continues, but the Filipinos decline to give a pitched battle. The Filipinos are estimated to have lost two hundred in killed alone.

Despatches from Manila state that the American troops are to-day close upon Malabon, which is in flames. Their losses to-day are less severe than has been the case for some days past.

Improved gunboats are bombarding Malabon, which the Filipinos are evacuating, an attempt to intercept their retreat having failed. Surgeons from the British warship Powerfull have volunteered to give aid to the wounded, and have worked indefatigably at the front.

LONDON, MAR. 27. The vanguard of the American troops from Manila has arrived fifteen miles from Malolos, the headquarters of the Filipino insurgents. All the forces are concentrating in that direction.

LONDON, MAR. 26. A sword of honour was presented to Colonel Mathias, of the Gordon Highlanders, last evening, at the annual dinner of the Pembrokeshire Club, in the Holborn Restaurant. Lord Wolseley was to have been present at the ceremony, but was unable to attend.

LONDON, MAR. 27. A petition to the Queen, signed by twenty-one thousand Uitlanders, has been transmitted through Sir Alfred Milner, High Commissioner of Cape Colony, declaring their position in the Transvaal to be intolerable, and praying for an inquiry.

The Times asks, "Will President Kruger disregard these warnings until it is late?"

LONDON, MAR. 27. The Soulan railway has already been laid fifty miles south of the Athara, and will be completed in November.

LONDON, MAR. 27. In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Brodrick, replying to a question, said that all the circumstances connected with the foreign treaties had been fully weighed before the Indian Controlling Sugar Duties were decided upon by the authorities at Calcutta.

LONDON, MAR. 27. There was sharp engagement on the banks of the Maritias to-day, between the Americans and Filipinos, the latter's rear guard holding the bank until shelled from the trenches. The American casualties in the fighting on Sunday morning were twenty-eight killed and 112 wounded.

LONDON, MAR. 28. Mr. Balfour replying to Mr. Maclean, member for Cardiff, said the Government, far from wishing to evade discussion of the Indian Countervailing Sugar Duties Bill, hoped to find it possible to arrange for a debate on the measure, at a later date.

LONDON, MAR. 28.

The House of Commons has adjourned for the Easter Holidays until the tenth of April.

LONDON, MAR. 28.

The Danish Parliament has voted the necessary credit for the despatch of a cruiser to China.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MARCH 10

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

I SEE by the telegrams from India that the Muscat incident is exciting much interest there which is not a matter of surprise. The Times correspondent to-day cables long extracts from the Pioneer and the Times of India, which convey the impression that the Government and Anglo-Indian Society generally is much annoyed at the notion that Britain has given way to France, and consented to allow that country to have a coaling shed at Muscat. These good people have hardly grasped the situation, and the fuller particulars of the origin of the affair, which will reach India by mail, will put a different complexion on it. The French Government are quite content with the concession which has been justly made to them through our Foreign Office, and the impression prevails here that Lord Curzon has been too hasty, and has received his first snub from home. It is evident that the British Government has approached the French with an apology and an expressed desire to grant their full and reasonable coaling facilities provided the Sultan makes no cession of territory or permits fortification; and why any sane politician should object to such simple trading facilities being given by an independent ruler, it is hard to understand. At the same time, it appears that the original concession to the French by the Sultan of Oman amounted to more than this, and justified a protest from the British Foreign Office. Such a protest, if it had been made direct to the French Government, would have been quite successful, and saved the foolish and risky action of Admiral Douglas in compelling the Sultan to revoke the concession at the muzzle of his guns for which high-handed proceeding an ample and fortunately satisfactory apology appears to have been tendered, with the acceptance of an unfortified coaling station, which compromise the French Government has made the best of, and frankly accepted. No blame need attach to Admiral Douglas, as it is admitted that he was acting under orders from the Indian Government, which orders appear now to be disowned by the Home Government, making Lord Curzon, perhaps quite undeservedly, the scapegoat.

It appears now quite clear from the light thrown upon it by questions and answers in Parliament that the Sultan is debarred by treaty from giving any territorial rights to a Foreign Power, or from ceding a coaling station, in the sense of a place that may be garrisoned or fortified. This he did undoubtedly, and when it was discovered, the strong measures which were taken to prevent it, induced him to cancel the agreement he had made with France. But it appears equally clear that, as an independent and sovereign prince, he is within his rights in permitting France to have a mere coal depot, and it now seems settled between the two European Governments that this latter is to be accepted as a final settlement, accompanied by some sort of apology on the part of Britain for the high-handed action of the Indian Government and Admiral Douglas. All's well that ends well. But it is always a toss up how great a Power will accept such vigorous treatment and it is fortunate that France's kettle of fish just now leaves no room for any addition, or we might have been on the edge of war. This incident is only another instance of the gross incapacity of the present Government, which keeps the country always in the tenterhooks. Siam, Tun, S, China, Fashoda and Muscat are words that will be very freely used by Liberal candidates at the next General Election, in their attacks on the present administration.

The Government are making the best of the situation, as is manifest by the following statement made in the House of Commons on Tuesday, though a comparison of Mr. Brodrick's statement with that made the day before by M. Delcasse, the French Foreign Minister, hardly reconciles them, and leave much to be desired in the way of clearness.—I do not think, however, that either minister wishes for further discussions and both will be glad to forget the incident as quickly as possible.

Sir Charles Dilke asked whether the Government desire to make any modification in the recent statement to the House with regard to Muscat, and whether it is the case that Her Majesty's Government have expressed to France their profound regret for recent occurrences.

Mr. Brodrick: Perhaps the House will allow me to answer this question at some little length. The circumstances of the Muscat case are as follows: In the middle of March last year, the French Agent obtained from the Sultan of Muscat the lease or concession of a piece of land to be used as a coal depot. On the land so ceded, which was in a small harbor, some way from Muscat, the French Government would have been at liberty to hoist its flag and to build fortifications. No hint of these proceedings reached the British Agent until this year. As soon as the British Government to be contrary to the Treaty of 1862 and to the Sultan's special obligations to the British Government in respect of the assignment or alienation of any part of his territories, and the Sultan was required to cancel the lease. This he did, and the lease has been annulled. We expressed no disapproval of the action of our agent, which, indeed, was taken under our instructions, and Lord Salisbury informed the French Ambassador more than once that in his judgment the British Government was absolutely right in the contention it maintained, and that it was possible for us to recede from it. With respect to the form of the matter, the statement of M. Delcasse is somewhat imperfect. He omits to mention that in November last he was asked by Sir Edmund Monson whether there was any truth in the rumor of any acquisition of land on the littoral of Muscat, and he said that he had heard nothing whatever about it. He repeated the same statement a few days ago.

It was, therefore, a case of action of the French local agent in excess of the instructions he had received, and in such a case it is usual to bring the question to the knowledge of the Government, concerned and secure its decision by diplomatic means in order to avoid publicity and involve no threat of bombardment. While on this account Lord Salisbury, as he stated to the French Ambassador, would have preferred a less public mode of action, it is clear that no blame attaches to our agent on the spot, who was not in a position to distinguish between the responsibility of the French Agent and the Sultan of

Muscat on the one hand and that of the French Government on the other, and we hold his action in substance to have been absolutely right. By the convention between France and England of 1862, there is nothing to prohibit France from having a coal store at Muscat itself as Great Britain has done within the terms of the convention, provided there is no concession of territory, and it is understood that the French Government will avail itself of this power, subject to the above-named limitations. (Cheers.)

The following is the statement of M. Delcasse, the French Foreign Minister, in reply to an interpellation in the Chamber on Monday, to which Mr. Brodrick refers:—

Gentlemen,—I will reply in a few words to the question which M. Brunet has done me the honor to ask. Three weeks ago the British resident at Bander Jesh, who is in the service of the Government of India, arrived at Muscat on board a warship, and called upon the Sultan to withdraw a concession which the Sultan had granted us, authorising France to have a coal depot on the sea front in one of the creeks belonging to Muscat. Under the menace of English guns the Sultan asked us to hand back to him the deed of concession, which we naturally refused to do. The Sultan then declared that the concession was cancelled. Such were the facts. The Government of the Republic thus found itself confronted by a double question—a question of fact and a question of form. In plain terms, what grievance could be alleged against us? By the treaty of 1862 France and Great Britain entered into a mutual engagement to respect the independence of the Imam of Muscat. This independence France has no more desire to-day than in times past to impair. She has always proclaimed this; she has never made any difficulty about repeating it, and no more doubtless than Great Britain herself does she seek by roundabout means or separate agreements to create for herself a privileged position at Muscat, or to weaken, to her own advantage, the force of the convention of 1862. Could the concession of a coaling depot arouse the least alarm? Why for some time past Great Britain had possessed a coaling depot at Muscat. How could merely the intention of France to do in her turn what Great Britain had already been able to do without injury to the convention of 1862 constitute a failure to observe or a breach of the same convention?

On this point discussion could not be prolonged. The Government of the Queen, therefore, on being informed both of the facts and of our intentions, did not delay to admit that since the rights of France and Great Britain at Muscat were identical, as also were their obligations, France might quite legitimately have in her turn a coaling depot on exactly the same terms as Great Britain had established her own. (Cheers.) The question of fact being thus settled to our satisfaction, there remained the question of form. A satisfactory solution of that also could not be in doubt. It was not, in fact, at a time when the two Governments were negotiating an African delimitation in a sincere spirit of conciliation, and aiming at an arrangement which shall be the guarantee of a durable understanding, inasmuch as by it the essential interests of the two countries will be safeguarded—it was not at such a time that the Government of the Queen could sanction an intervention by one of its agents as incorrect and spontaneous of which we were bound to complain, and for which the Government of the Queen has expressed to us its profound regret.

Such, gentlemen, is the history of this affair. I thank the Chamber for having given the Government time to arrange it, although some newspapers—happily not very many—made haste to predict a withdrawal on your part, as if they wished to gloat in advance over a humiliation for their country. I earnestly thank the Chamber for having, by its silence, shown its confidence in the Government. I deem that the satisfaction which we have obtained was none the less prompt or complete for having been asked for without fuss.

To the ordinary mind these two statements appear very contradictory; but as a matter of fact there is no real disagreement either between the statements or the Governments responsible for them. It is evident that neither minister wants a quarrel over this tumpety affair, which is more worthy of comic opera than serious politics, and each is using Parliamentary tactics to put the incident in the most favourable light to the public opinion to which each is responsible. The French press complains, as I think with some justice, that Britain, after giving full satisfaction and some sort of an apology to France, is disguising her retreat by an offensive attitude, and openly charges Mr. Brodrick with wilful misrepresentation, and that the whole business is another illustration of the ill-will which inspires the attitude of the British Government towards France. It is, however, evident, from a careful perusal of the two statements, that there is practical agreement between the two Cabinets, and that nobody on either side of the channel is disposed to make more than is necessary about what is now, I hope, a closed incident in which France undoubtedly comes out the best of the two.

A HISTORY OF INDIA. The first volume of a great book by a great mind has been published this week. It is entitled "A History of British India," by Sir William Hunter, K.C.S.I., a Vice-President of the Royal Asiatic Society. It covers the period from the first landing of the British on Indian soil, to the overthrow of the British in the spice archipelago. The publishers are Longmans Green and Co., and the price 18s.

No man living is better capable of performing the important task of writing a comprehensive History of British India than Sir William Hunter, and we must all earnestly desire that his life may be spared to the completion of the great task to which he has set his hand. Sir William has thrown out a number of what may be styled skirmishing attacks on this great subject to which he proposed to devote the remainder of his life. The fourteen volumes of the Imperial Gazetteer of India and especially the sixth volume which is devoted entirely to the word "India," forms the complete "hand-book" to our greatest dependency; the 22 volumes of the Statistical account of Bengal and Assam; his splendid "Brief history of the Indian peoples;" and indeed, everything that has come from his fertile brain, justifying the belief that his new "History of British India" when completed, will be most brilliant contributions ever made to Indian literature. Sir William's books are always clear, accurate, comprehensive, and what is most important of all in history, eminently readable. This first volume though only introductory is marked by all these qualities in an eminent degree. The book will have the advantage of being the result of repeated work. Returning from India many years ago, Sir William Hunter packed up a vast collection of manuscript work, historical, economic and political, the result of 23 years of unremitting toil, and shipped them home by the steamer Nepal which was wrecked on her homeward voyage, and the priceless bit of cargo went to the bottom of the sea in her hold. It is characteristic of Sir William Hunter, that instead of abandoning his life-work in despair at this untoward destruction of its accumulated result, he set to work to repair the loss, in spite of its involving ten good years to do it. This labour,

twice performed, will not be lost in either of its two-fold operations, as the result will be a perfection that perhaps could not have been attainable in any other way. I have not yet read the volume critically, so will say nothing about its contents. I am, however, profoundly thankful that the all-important work of writing the History of India, down to and including the end of the nineteenth century, has so providentially fallen to a man whose long Anglo-Indian experience has never blunted his sense of justice, or turned the edge of his keen appreciation of their moral and intellectual qualities of the Indian people, which eminently fit them for eventual self-government. I extract just one paragraph from this fascinating volume, which bears on some remarks in a recent letter of mine about the influence which the success or failure of the United States in establishing a free popular Government in the Philippines is likely to have on the future prospects of the Congress movement. He is treating of the political conduct of the successive European Nations in the East and says:—

"Not only a new force, but also a new Nation has entered on the scene. The colonial Empire of Spain has crumbled to pieces at a touch from the youngest of the great Christian peoples. America starts on her career of Asiatic rule with an amplitude of resources and with a sense of moral responsibility which no previous State in Christendom brought to the work. Each Western Nation, as we shall find, has stamped on its Eastern history the European ethics of the age when its supremacy was won. In the splendid and difficult task which lies before our American kinsmen they will be hampered by no Portuguese Inquisition of the 16th century, nor by the slave colonisation of Holland in the 17th, nor by that cynical rule for the gain of the rulers which for a time darkened the British acquisition of India in the 18th. The United States in the government of their dependencies will represent the political conscience of the 19th century. Faint their advent in the East as a power for good, not alone for the island races who come under their care, but also in that great settlement of European spheres of influence which, if we could see aright, forms a world problem of our day."

These wise and pregnant words breathe the fine progressive spirit, sympathetic with the best aspirations of educated India, which characterises every page of Sir William Hunter's fascinating volume, which should find a place in the library of every cultured Indian gentleman, and of every Native Club and Reading Room.

LORD CLAUD HAMILTON. Even his brother cannot stand it any longer! One of the minor political sensations of the week is the announcement from Lord Claud Hamilton, brother of the Secretary of State for India, that he is compelled to withdraw his support from the Government. Lord Claud is a personage in his way. He is President of the Kensington Conservative Association, and Kensington is a constituency that includes the London residences of ¼ of the aristocracy of the country, which returned Sir Algernon Birkenhead, proprietor of that aristocratic and conservative journal, the Morning Post, as its representative to Parliament in 1886 by a majority of 4 to 1. The cowed Liberals never having sense, plucked up courage to dispute it with him. Lord Claud Hamilton was formerly one of the members for Liverpool, and made some figure in the House, but retired to enter the Chairmanship of the Great Eastern Railway.

The following brief extract from his letter will give Lord Claud's main reasons for resigning his presidency of the Kensington Conservative Association, and there can be little doubt he speaks for thousands of Tory voters all over the country:—

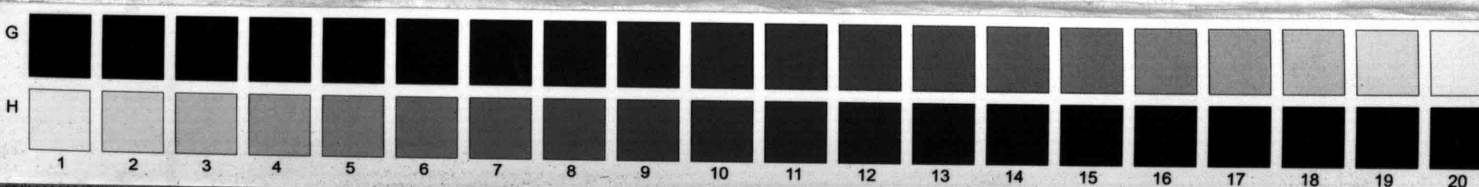
"It is in its home policy that the Government both as regards legislation and administration, has so grievously disappointed the expectations of its supporters. One attack has followed another upon property and capital, and even those who for years have been suffering from the undue weight of direct taxation have been sacrificed to allow of a remission of indirect taxation on an article, not a necessity of life. Such fiscal policy is unworthy of a Conservative Government. Fresh attacks on capital have already commenced during the present Session, and the Department specially created for the protection of trade proposes to impose on the trade of the country an expenditure of many millions of unproductive capital, without previous inquiry, and on the flimsiest pretences."

"The Conservative Party in the House of Commons appear to me to have degenerated into a flabby Party. The bulk of them object to all these things, but having made a mild protest to ease their minds, they swallow everything as a matter of course. They are like the members of a Trade Union, afraid to call their own. That is not my conception of public duty. A man worthy of being called a man should hold convictions, and adhere to them. It may be said that Party Government is impossible if such views prevail. I admit much allowance should be made for the exigencies of Party, and that a full measure of grumble is generally preferable to secession. But there must be a limit even to the patience of a Conservative."

This is a very nasty wipe for the Government and especially for poor Lord George Hamilton, who has failed to keep his clever brother loyal. Here must be a good deal of smouldering discontent in the Tory camp to have produced this notable accession from what Lord Claud rudely and cruelly describes as a "flabby party" and it is likely enough the beginning of that open rebellion of the old Tories against the malign influence of Chamberlain and Co that has been smouldering ever since 1895.

A SERIOUS fire occurred in Hyderabad, Sindh on Saturday resulting 17 shops and six houses in the Main Bazar being completely destroyed. The fire was extinguished with great difficulty with the assistance of the military force native and European consisting of about 130 men, who worked very hard at the pumps. Fortunately no lives were lost, but property, estimated at nearly a lakh of rupees, was destroyed.

MR. HAMILTON, a forest ranger in the Dun came upon certain sleepers which he suspected to be stolen Government property. In the lawful exercise of his powers he thereupon set a watch upon the sleepers to see that they were not taken away. Some villagers, however, came with heavy sticks and by dint of threats obtained possession of the sleepers. Two members of the crowd, Rajputs of Chakradar district, were subsequently identified, tried and given exemplary punishments by the Superintendent of the Dun. These convictions and sentences have now been upheld in appeal by the Sessions Judge. The Court commended the discretion with which Mr. Hamilton had acted in the matter.



THE SUGAR BILL AGITATION.

The Times correspondent and Reuter's agency both cable the news that it has been decided to introduce a Bill into the Legislative Council providing for a countervailing duty on bounty-fed sugar imported into India, and indicate that the proposal gives general satisfaction. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce, however, appears to dissent from the proposal on the ground that the importation of bounty-fed sugars operated principally to supply deficiencies in local production, and did not, to any serious extent, affect the prices paid by the mass of the people for the unrefined sugar principally used by them, and that, anyhow, there is no evidence to show that the area in land has contracted during recent years. There is plenty of room for argument in this and no doubt it will be duly weighed by the Council when the Bill comes before them. But the Blue Book on agricultural statistics of British India show that in 1897 the area under sugar cultivation has contracted 8½ per cent as compared with 1896, and in Bengal it is as high as 19 per cent. I can conceive of no other valid reason but the largely increased competition of imported bounty-fed sugar to explain this falling off; an importation which, as I think I showed in a recent letter, is steadily and alarmingly on the increase. This Bill will certainly not be allowed to pass without some discussion in Parliament, for the agitation in this country is very strong in favour of a countervailing duty in the British Custom House, for bounty-fed sugar is credited justly enough with having seriously injured our West India sugar industry, and closed a considerable number of Sugar Refineries in Britain. If India adopts countervailing duties, the agitation here will be considerably strengthened.

There is, however, no real competition between the two. The people of India mainly consume raw and unrefined sugar, and there is no refining industry to protect; in Britain sugar is imported raw and refined in large Sugar Houses. In India, sugar in many large areas is the main source of land and irrigation revenue, and it is impossible to lower the price to an unprofitable figure without hitting the Imperial revenue and indirectly checking the extension of irrigation; in Britain it is a mere article of commerce imported for food consumption, mainly by the poor. A countervailing duty in India replaces the losses caused by foreign bounties to the Indian revenue, and if any one suffers by the enhanced price, it is the well-to-do people who consume refined sugar and who will not feel it; not the poor, who consume raw unrefined sugar alone. But in Britain the state of things is very different. The price of sugar has for years been lower here than in any European country. In consequence sugar has become one of the great staple foods of the poor, and the consumption has mounted to 80 lbs per head per annum. Cheap sugar has, it is true, closed a few refineries in Britain, but it has created far larger industries employing ten times the number of workpeople to take their place. Biscuits, jams, preserves, sweets and cakes find their way to the table of the poor, which they never saw 20 years ago, and the Free Trade doctrine, the only sound one for this country, is thoroughly vindicated. If Foreign Governments by their foolish subsidies give us sugar for half the price their own subjects have to pay, so much the better.

I do not think there is any fear that protection in this country will rear a successful head and obtain countervailing sugar duties because they have been imposed upon Indian imports. Nor, on the other hand, do I think any successful agitation can be got up against the Indian proposals. A few Cobdenite pulis may divide the House upon it, but the Indian Government may go ahead with their Bill, well assured that nobody will stop them from this country. I am myself an ardent, convinced and uncompromising Free Trader but I can see and recognize that these principles can not be applied to a country like India where the economic doctrines which govern the fiscal policy of Britain are hopelessly unsuitable to both the people and their trade. The enhancement in the quantity of bounty-fed sugar imported during the last 8 years into India, is equal to the output annually of 330,000 acres of land. In the present condition of the Indian peasant so large an area cannot be allowed to go out of cultivation in deference to an economic dogma however sound it may be.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENTS.

The proceedings of Parliament this week have been totally devoid of interest to your readers, and indeed, the session, in marked contrast to last year, promises to be supremely dull, so far as Indian subjects are concerned. The questions and answers between members of the House and the Secretary of State for India are so well compiled in the columns of "India" that you quite understand, why I do not give them in full as I used to do, but only refer to those which may call for special comment. On Tuesday Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would state whether it was true that a Bill to regulate mining and the exploration of minerals in India had been drafted by the Indian Government and would shortly be presented in Council; and, if so, whether, in view of the great importance of the question to British capitalists, he would lay a copy of the Bill upon the table of the House.

Mr. Brodrick, who replied on behalf of Lord G. Hamilton, said,—"It is true that a Bill on the subject of mining has been drafted and will shortly, I believe, be brought before the Legislative Council of the Viceroy. But to lay on the table of this House a copy of a measure which is under discussion in that Council is contrary to the established practice, and would have the effect of transferring to the House of Commons a responsibility which by law rests, first, with the Legislative Council, and, secondly, with the Secretary of State, who has the power of disallowing any measure which the Council may pass. As my noble friend has already stated in this House he does not think this would be right; and he cannot, therefore, undertake to do what the hon. member suggests."

Had Lord George Hamilton, who I am sorry to say, is, I believe, present, Mr. Roberts would have called for some supplementary information in explanation of the astounding statement that to lay an Indian Bill on the table of the House for the information of members who may be interested, would for a moment interfere with the responsibility of either the Legislative Council or the Secretary of State. It would be laid for information only, and no action whatever would be possible

that is not equally possible without. The answer was evidently prepared by some official at the India Office totally ignorant of Parliamentary procedure, for it would have been impossible for such a reply to have been given by so old a Parliamentary hand as Lord George Hamilton. Mr. Brodrick, of course, never saw the answer till it was put in his hands to read. Mr. Roberts intends to recur to this question when Lord George is again in his place as he considers it very important that all Bills introduced into the Indian Legislative Council should be laid on the table of the House for the information of members.

Correspondence.

SANITATION IN FARIDPUR DISTRICT.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In your leader of the 11th March (Dak Edition) headed "How Malarial Fever is decimating Bengal," you have been pleased to quote the remark of the Civil Surgeon of Faridpur to show that in one year, in 1896, about fifty thousand people of the district died from fever; and you have very pertinently observed that upwards of one million people of the district forming about one-half of the total population, suffered from the disease in one single year. Now, Sir, one having the least acquaintance with the sanitary condition of the district, need not be startled at this high rate of mortality and suffering. It is admitted on all hands that free and fresh air and good drinking water are the two essential conditions of health. But unfortunately our Faridpur district fares badly in both respects. The rural area of the district may be roughly classified in two tracts in respect of sanitation: (1) the river-side tract and (2) the Bil or low land tract. The river-side tract comprises villages on the banks of the Kumar, Chandana, and other streams, branches of the Padma. The Bil tract comprises villages mostly in the southern part of the district within the jurisdiction of the Sadar and Madaripur sub-divisions. Villages in the river tract no doubt get a good supply of drinking water all the year round, but they do not get a supply of good drinkable water from the month of *Falgun* to *Asadh* or *Sraavan*, or for about 6 months in the year. Villages on the banks of the Kumar and other rivers have been overgrown with dense jungle and rank vegetation. They rot in the water and lend it a greenish hue. Sometimes a thin layer of green vegetable matter floats on the surface of the water emitting a nauseating smell. The people of these villages are compelled to drink this poisonous water for about 6 months in the year. It is not unusual that cholera breaks out in these villages, and carries off hundreds of people. Those who are left behind by cholera die of sheer mercy, fall victims to malarious fever. Now, if the people of this river tract can get a plentiful supply of river-water, be it good or bad, be it from a distance of 5 yards or 5 miles to quench their thirst, those of the Bil tract are far worse off. There is hardly a tank to be met with within a radius of 3 or 4 miles and sometimes 5 or 6 miles. People in their sore need often excavate small holes near their houses, which are no better than cesspools filled with washings from the surrounding lands when rain falls. Then, there are some Bils which do not dry up in hot weather; but their water becomes reddish and nauseating by the decomposition of weeds and other vegetation. Many people have to use the water of these Bils all the year round. Under the circumstances, it is a wonder that so many people die of malarial fever in the district? We have been paying Road and P. W. cesses since the passing of the Act. Sometimes the rate of taxation is doubled by a simple Notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*; at every new Revaluation proceeding the amount of tax is summarily enhanced by a single stroke of the pen. But can the authorities point out how many tanks have been dug in the district during the last 30 years? I think not many. It appears from the Government Resolution on the Administration Report on the Roadcess fund of 1896-97 that the rate of taxation per head of people in Faridpur is 6 pias; the population of the district is a little more than 18 lakhs. So the total income of the Roadcess Fund in the year amounted to Rs. 56,250 nearly. Now would you believe it, that out of this large sum, only Rs. 7855 was spent on excavating and repairing tanks in the district in that year?

Now, this question of water-supply is not peculiar to Faridpur. It is the common complaint all over Bengal. But what is Nature's free gift everywhere else, is denied to the people of Faridpur—I mean, a supply of free and fresh air.

As I have noted above, villages on the banks of the Kumar and other rivers are covered with dense jungle, which has invaded human habitations and almost depopulated the villages. In last June, I had an occasion to make a long journey of about 4 days from Makundpur to Faridpur along the serpent-like course of the Kumar. I found that houses on either side of the river were like dots scattered over a vast expanse of dense jungle, light and free air being unknown in most of the houses. In the rainy season, when these villages remain under water for about 3 or 4 months, the leaves of trees rot in the water and when the water subsides at last, the poisonous gas remains confined to the jungle and the damp ground. As a matter of course malaria breaks out in these villages when the water subsides in the months of *Aswin* and *Kartik*; and thousands fall victims to the ravages of the fell disease. The villages, I have referred to above, have in this way been almost depopulated in the course of 20 or 30 years. As there is no supply of free air on account of the dense jungle, the poisonous gas continues to remain on the ground all the year round. Now this is a state of things which is horrible to contemplate; still it is a plump truth and unvarnished fact. What is true with respect to the villages on the banks of the Kumar is also true with regard to villages on other rivers in the district. Now God forbid, suppose the terrible disease, plague, truly described as the scourge of humanity, which I now almost knocking at the gates of the district—nay, has already invaded it as was found in your yesterday's paper, somehow or other finds its way into any of these villages, what power on earth would be able to prevent it from making the district its permanent home, when all the measures of scientific sanitation at the disposal of a civilized Government have failed to stamp it out from Bombay in the course of 3 years, where sanitation is looked after by a municipality?

Now the question is what is the remedy, and does it lie in the hands of the district authorities? There can be no two opinions as to the advisability of supplying good drinking water. The District Board has so long signally failed to discharge their duties in this respect. If the funds at their disposal cannot be sufficiently diverted to the excavation of tanks from other expenditure, such as education, it is now high time for the Government to step in with its beneficent and benevolent purse and dig a sufficient number of tanks in the rural area. I earnestly trust that our kind-hearted Governor will not fail to come forward and protect his people from the jaws of death.

As to the growth of jungle in the river-tract, it behoves the Government to depute a responsible Sanitary officer to visit the villages and report on their condition. Some years ago the District authorities issued an order to the villagers to clear out the jungle on their respective lands but nothing came out of it. Such a general order may lead to oppression, specially if the carrying out of it is entrusted to the Police. Moreover there are many helpless widows in these villages, the chance survivors of big families carried off by malaria, who want to be able to clear out their own jungle at the bidding of the authorities. Then if the jungle be cleared once or twice, it will grow again during the next rains. So it requires to be rooted out and constantly kept under. Let the construction of roads by the District Boards be postponed for some time, which are not generally wanted in the flooded district, and the funds diverted to this end. Besides roads are a luxury which we can very well go without for the sake of bare necessity, nay, even the very existence. Let Sanitary Inspectors be appointed by the District Board to look to the clearance of jungle. Will some of our representative members in the Bengal Council bring this matter to the urgent notice of Government, and earn the blessings of millions of people of the doomed district?

A FARIDPURIAN.

March, 16, 99.

THE SO-CALLED PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The vital statistics of Calcutta for last Tuesday, the 21st instant, shew 29 deaths from plague, and 13 deaths from suspected plague, while the mortality from all causes was 89 against 78, the average of the last five years. Deducting the 42 deaths from the so-called plague, the number of deaths from causes other than plague was only 47. In the previous five years, there was no death from the so-called plague. It is, therefore, evident, that in this miscalculation year, the number of deaths from all other causes is less than the average of the last five years from the same causes by 31, i.e., about 35 per cent.—a fact, though improbable in the nature of things, is highly complimentary to the present Municipal administration of the town. The so-called sporadic cases of plague which are, with a very few exceptions, purely malignant types of malarious fever in official disguise, owe their origin not to dirt and filth on the surface of the town as has been erroneously supposed by some theorists and scientific faddists, but their cause is underground, and the so-called plague is the outcome of the defective underground drainage system of Calcutta, and the poisoned and humid sub-soil of the city. There are townships, who are under the false impression, that the so-called plague has been imported from Bombay or other places, but those who have studied the question carefully and are acquainted with the genesis of malarious fever, are fully convinced, that the so-called plague is indigenous in its origin, and (time alone can prove the correctness of this statement). The plague service appears to us simply to be a sinecure service, and disinfection, segregation, isolation are the most impotent means to combat with a disease which has been raging in Bengal for the last four decades in spite of the measures adopted by Government from time to time to stamp it out.

During the first outbreak of the so-called plague, the number of non-plague deaths showed a reduction similar to what we have noticed above. This is a noteworthy fact, and leads to the suspicion, that day after day some new plague deaths are added to the number of deaths from the so-called plague to swell the list. This may be done through the over-zeal of the Registrar of the burning ghat or the over-zeal of the plague officers to save the people by disinfecting more houses than those in which the so-called plague deaths actually occurred. The statistics promised by the municipality should, therefore, be received with some allowance, and citizens should have no cause for alarm, when the cases are continuing in a sporadic form for the last 11 solid months.

In the above, we have given the plague officers credit for too much zeal in disinfecting houses, but the letter that appeared in your correspondence columns, from the pen of Mr. A. K. Bose, proves that they are not equally zealous in every quarter, though sometimes some of them overstep their zeal by disinfecting houses where men died of heart-disease and dropsy. This is a significant fact and ought to attract notice in the proper quarters.

We think it our duty to inform the public, simply to allay needless alarm that we have received reports of so-called plague cases which are getting well under Homeopathic treatment. As far as our information goes we have reason to believe that there is no cause for apprehension as our old friend, malarial fever, of a virulent type, is in our midst and is not likely to disappear altogether unless and until its cause be removed but that is a distant hope, as it is a question of funds and the Corporation in its present state of finances can ill-afford to pay it. The defective underground drainage system of Calcutta, which is not at all suited to tropical countries, needs a thorough examination and thorough overhauling to rescue the city from the clutches of malignant fevers.

HURRO NATH ROY, L.M.S.

25th March 1899.

An Editor Finds a Sure Cure for Rheumatism.

A. K. De Fluett, editor of the *Journal*, Doyestown Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says, "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and I was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO., and K. PAUL & CO.

MR. STEEVENS' ABUSE OF THE CALCUTTA COMMISSIONERS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Accidentally this afternoon I read in your issue of to-day an extract of the opinion of Mr. Stevens about the Corporation of Calcutta and its Indian Commissioners. The writer says that to an elected Commissioner of—course he is aiming at the Hindu Commissioners—the post is worth Rs. 300 a month—in other words, an elected Commissioner receives a bribe at the rate of Rs. 300 a month. I am certain, however, smart the writer may be, he never would have had the courage to say one sixteenth of that against a Municipal Commissioner of any corporation in Europe for within a very short time the Commissioner would have shown the amount of sympathy that there is between the sole of his boot and the surface on which Mr. Stevens sits. The writer was here for a very short time, and within that time, he thought he gained so much reliable information as to justify the charges he has thought fit to bring against the elected Commissioners. It is a gross libel against the Commissioners, and if they don't take proceedings in a court of justice against the writer, I for one will have no hesitation in believing the allegation or charge to be true. There is another thing. I cannot understand how a journalist of your taste and position can condescend to give publication to such rabid nonsense of a T. G. like Mr. Stevens.

R. MITRA.

34 Shampuker St., Calcutta, 24 Mar. 99.

PLAGUE REGULATION NO. 15.

The 28th March 1899.

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and by the Notification of the Government of India, Home Department, No. 302, dated the 4th February 1897, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to prescribe the following Regulations for preventing the spread of plague from Calcutta to the interior:—

1. The powers conferred by this Regulation are in addition to and not in derogation of any powers conferred by any Plague Regulation now in force.

PART I.—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF TRAINS AT STARTING.

2. The Local Government may by written order appoint one or more Inspecting Medical Officers to inspect passengers leaving Calcutta or any station in the vicinity by rail.

3. When any train is about to leave Howrah or Sealdah, or any station in the vicinity, for any station beyond Panduah on the East Indian Railway, or Naihati on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, or Bongong on the Bengal Central Railway, as the case may be, the Inspecting Medical Officer shall have authority to inspect all passengers proceeding by such train. He shall not ordinarily make any special examination of any passenger who appears to him to be in good health; but he shall examine in any way that he may think proper any passenger who appears to be in bad health, or regarding whom he considers that there are grounds of suspicion; and he may for the purpose of such examination cause any person to alight from the train.

In the case of the Punjab and Bombay mail train, which are exempted from inspection at Panduah, the examination at Howrah will be of a more thorough and searching character, the Inspecting Medical Officer being authorized to examine every passenger in the manner prescribed by Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897.

If on such examination the Inspecting Medical Officer is of opinion that any person is suffering from plague, or that there are reasonable grounds for believing that any person is likely to convey the infection of plague, he shall cause such person, and his clothing, bedding and other effects to be removed from the train; and no such person shall proceed on his journey until, in the opinion of the Inspecting Medical Officer, the risk of infection has ceased. The name and address of any person so detained shall be communicated to the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, or the Magistrate of Howrah, as the case may be; and also to the Railway Police.

4. In any such case the Inspecting Medical Officer may also, if he thinks fit, cause the railway carriage in which such person was to be cut off from the train and disinfected before it is again used.

5. If on such examination the Inspecting Medical Officer is of opinion that the person examined is not suffering from plague, and that there are no reasonable grounds for believing that he is likely to convey the infection of plague, the Inspecting Medical Officer shall allow him to proceed on his journey; and may if he thinks fit communicate by wire the name and address of such person, and the town or village to which he is proceeding, to the Magistrate of the district in which such town or village is situated, and also to the Railway Police of the station at which he intends to alight. This procedure should be followed in all cases in which the suspicion regarding the passenger falls short of that required to justify his detention under Rule 4.

PART II.—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF TRAINS "EN ROUTE."

7. Places of inspection under Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897 shall be established at Panduah, Naihati and Bongong.

8. On the arrival of any train at a place of inspection established under Rule 7, the Medical Officer in charge shall inspect and examine all passengers by such train in such manner and to such extent as he thinks necessary, in order to ascertain whether there is reason to believe or suspect that such person is or may be infected with plague; and all the provisions of Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897 shall

Tow to Save Doctor Bills.

We have saved many doctor bills since we began using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in our home. We keep a bottle open all the time and when ever any of my family or myself begin to catch cold we begin to use the Cough Remedy, and as a result we never have to send away for a doctor and incur a large doctor bill, for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy never fails to cure. It is certainly a medicine of great merit and worth.—D. S. MEARLE, General Merchant and Farmer, Matthe, Bedford county Pa. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and B. K. PAUL CO.

"mutatis mutandis," apply to such inspection and examination, including especially those provisions which empower the Medical Officer to detain persons suspected of being infected with plague.

N. B.—The mere fact that a passenger has come from an infected area shall not of itself, and apart from other reasons for suspicion, be deemed to be a reason for detaining such passenger.

The provisions of this rule will not be applied to the Punjab and Bombay mail trains, which are exempted from medical inspection at Panduah. But all persons who desire to enter these trains at Howrah will be subject to medical inspection at that station.

9. When any person has been detained at a place of inspection under Rule 8 and Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, and the Medical Officer is subsequently of opinion that he may safely be allowed to continue his journey, he shall give him a certificate to that effect in the form hereto appended; and shall cause his ticket to be endorsed with the word "detained" and shall allow him to proceed. On arrival at his station of destination, the passenger shall at the time of giving up his ticket also give up the certificate which shall be forthwith communicated by the Railway Police to the District Magistrate.

PART III.—INTIMATION TO DISTRICT AUTHORITIES.

10. All tickets issued at any station between Howrah and Panduah inclusive, for any station beyond Panduah, or at any station between Sealdah and Naihati inclusive, for any station beyond Naihati, or at any station between Sealdah and Bongong inclusive, for any station beyond Bongong, shall at the time of issue be conspicuously marked with a square hole.

11. An officer or officers of the Railway Police shall be posted at such stations as the Inspector-General of Police may direct on the East Indian Railway, Eastern Bengal State Railway, the Bengal Central Railway, the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the East Coast Railway, and the Assam-Bihar Railway.

12. On arrival of any passenger holding a ticket punched as aforesaid at any such station, the Railway Police officer shall record his name and address, and the name of the town or village to which he is proceeding; and shall forthwith communicate this information to the Magistrate of the district in which such town or village is situated. The Magistrate of the district shall determine the channel through which such information shall be communicated to him; and may for this purpose appoint one or more special chaudikars or officers to attend the arrival of up trains at any station in his district.

PART IV.—SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KHOLA GHAT.

13. A place of inspection shall be established at Khola Ghat on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and all persons taking the train there shall be subject to inspection and examination in the manner prescribed in Rules 7, 8 and 9 of this Regulation and in Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, mutatis mutandis.

14. All tickets issued at Khola Ghat shall be punched with the square hole, and the provisions of Rules 10, 11 and 12 of this Regulation shall apply thereto.

PART V.—SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOALUNDO AND KHULNA.

15. Places of inspection shall be established at Goalundo and Khulna, and all the provisions of Rules 7, 8 and 9 of this Regulation and of Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, mutatis mutandis, shall apply thereto.

16. All persons who take the steamer at Goalundo or Khulna with the object of proceeding to any place in Bengal or Assam by steamer, or by steamer and rail, shall be regarded as if they were proceeding direct by rail. If such persons have arrived at Goalundo or Khulna from any station between Sealdah and Naihati, or Sealdah and Bongong, as the case may be, their steamer tickets, if not already punched, shall be punched as provided in Rule 10. At every point at which the steamer touches for the purpose of landing or embarking passengers, a special officer shall, if the Inspector-General of Police deem it necessary, be posted, and shall on the arrival of any passenger holding a punched ticket proceed as provided in Rule 12.

PART VI.—SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STEAMER SERVICES RUNNING DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

17. To every steamer service running direct from Calcutta to Chandbali or Balasore, or to Barisal and the eastern districts through the Sunderbans, one or more travelling medical inspectors shall be posted. It shall be the duty of the travelling medical inspectors to make the inspection and examination of every person travelling from Calcutta by such steamers in the manner prescribed by Rules 8 and 9 of this Regulation and by Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897, mutatis mutandis.

18. Places of inspection shall be established at Chundbali, Balasore and Morrelunge. 19. If on or before arrival of the steamer at Chandbali, Balasore or Morrelunge, as the case may be, the travelling inspector shall have reason to suspect that any person travelling on such steamer is or may be infected with plague, he shall cause such person to disembark at the place of inspection, and shall cause him to be detained for observation in the manner prescribed in Rules 8 and 9 of this Regulation and Plague Regulation No. 2 of 30th November 1897.

20. At every point at which any such steamer touches for the purpose of landing or embarking passengers, a special officer shall, if the District Magistrate thinks necessary, be posted and shall on the landing of any passenger proceed as provided in Rule 12.

PART VII.—GENERAL.

21. All persons travelling by rail or steamer shall be bound to obey all orders lawfully given them in pursuance of this Regulation, and to answer truly any questions put to them in pursuance thereof by any officer empowered hereunder.

22. The cost of all measures taken under this Regulation shall be borne by the District Boards and Municipalities of the areas protected in such proportion as the Lieutenant-Governor may determine.

INSTEAD of the usual Gurkha Guard a detachment of the 15th Sikhs has been sent up from the plains for guard at duty Simla. They arrived on Saturday and commenced guard duty at Snowdon from Tuesday last. The contrast between the sepoy of this crack regiment and the former guards, the little Gurkhas is very marked.

THE BIRTH-DAY CEREMONY OF LORD GAURANGA.

OVER TWO LAKHS OF PEOPLE.

THE metropolis of India saw a spectacle on Monday last the like of which was never before witnessed in the city. There was an immense gathering of people in Beadon Street and the park as also in the streets surrounding them, who had come to celebrate the birth of Gauranga, the Avatar of Nadia. The gathering was so immense that it was impossible to ascertain the number which, some say, exceeded more than two lakhs. But it was not only the gathering that made the spectacle unique. The gathering presented to the eye the spectacle of myriads of men under a spell of religious zeal, worshipping God, the Father, with one mind and with one heart.

It was only a few days ago that the Gauranga Samaj of Calcutta thought of celebrating the birth day of Lord Gauranga in Calcutta. The Lord as is well known was born on the full-moon night in the month of Falgun, or the very same night on which Dole-lra or Holis is observed throughout India. In view of the amount of interest that has lately been evoked among the people of Calcutta in the teachings of Lord Gauranga and the religion preached by Him, the Gauranga Samaj thought of observing the birth-day ceremony in the city of Calcutta. So they made an appeal, and the response given as indicated in Monday's demonstration was not only quite unexpected but undreamt of. Even the most ardent followers of the Lord had never expected that Calcutta's love for the Lord was so intense or that her desire to follow His teachings so fervent.

The Hindu quarter of the town wore a festive look as soon as the morning of the memorable Monday dawned upon it. Even in these days of panic and anxiety due to a recrudescence of plague and fever and the consequent high mortality, the people of Calcutta came en masse forward to bear testimony to the high appreciation in which they held the last of the Avatars. As day wore on people in the neighbourhood of the Garden, living specially in the Beadon Street, commenced to decorate their houses with flags and foliage, as they generally do on the occasion of marriages and other festivals. At the junction of Beadon Street with Chitpore Road and Cornwell Street respectively archways were erected on which Nabhats discoursed sweet music throughout the day. Nor was this all. Although it was a full moon night and Beadon Street, of all streets in the native quarter, is the best lighted, yet at the expense of Babu Amulya Prosad Ghose the whole street was lighted with chandeliers which added not a little to the beauty of the scene. Countless processions with their own band of musicians and musical instruments commenced to enter the Beadon Street under the gateway as the afternoon set in. As the parties advanced their numbers swelled by spectators joining them. By 6 o'clock the crowd became so inconveniently large that the spacious park was filled to overflowing, and those who came after that hour had to take their stand in the streets around.

By 7 o'clock it was all a sea of human faces in the garden, in the square, and in the streets around, and traffic had to be entirely suspended. The terraces around and even the few trees in the garden were all full of human beings. The cry of "jai Gauranga" mixed with "horibole" uttered by countless throats to the accompaniment of music and dancing at times, surcharged the whole atmosphere, and tens of thousands of people seemed lost in the enjoyment of the indescribable happiness which the scenery around and the occasion created.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

THE Gauranga Samaj began operations only a few weeks ago. That vigorous body with its hundreds of pious and disinterested workers, were trying to rouse the citizens to a sense of their duty to the Lord, who not only taught the love of God and love of man but showed how to do it by actual practice. The citizens met at the Beadon Square and Beadon Street.

The scene that was presented has scarcely a parallel in the annals of the world. It simply defies description. Picture to yourself a dense crowd of men (some compute the number at lakhs, but there was no doubt of it that there were at least two lakhs present) and then fancy all these men in a state of religious joy, dancing like madmen with uplifted hands and calling upon God Almighty to come to their midst, and you will be able to form some idea of the scene. Of course there were people who had come to see the Tamasha and possibly there were some who had come to scoff, but they were overtaken by the current and carried away by it. Gaudily dressed Babus, comfortably sitting in their carriages, threw away their rich dresses and jumped into the midst of the crowd crying "Har, Hari" for the purpose of a dance. And how they danced? It seemed that they had overcome the law of gravitation and had ethereal figures.

Just as the clock struck five, Keertan parties began to pour in from all quarters of the town. Thousands and thousands of people, old and young, rich and poor, banners in hand, dressed in holiday attire, singing in praise of Lord Gauranga to the accompaniment of Khol and Kartal, were seen winding their way towards Beadon Street. The procession commenced at 5 P. M. and Kirtan parties were seen pouring into the streets till 10 o'clock at night. It is computed by the Police Officer in charge of the Beadon Square that there were at least four hundred Keertan parties present. Many had to come from long distances, even from beyond the city limits. The crowd was at its height at nine. From above one could see only a sea of faces, and a large number of them dancing in ecstasy. The police had to come to keep the peace, but their presence was hardly required. A police officer himself confessed that he had come to keep the peace, but as a matter of fact he was carrying it home in his breast!

An observant man might have seen what effect a holy feeling has upon a vast crowd. It is said that people oftentimes take up arms and attain to a fighting temper under the impulse of some religious feeling. But that is not so with the religion of Gauranga. It seemed that the occasion had brought a complete change in the minds of men. There was joy in every face. This was known by their looks, behaviour and utterances. It was seen that they could not speak as if joy choked their throat. If they

attempted it they burst into tears. Every one we came across admitted that he had never felt such a holy feeling before. In many respects they behaved like mad men, drunk with the joy of bhakti. They embraced one another with great warmth though they were mere strangers. Some were seen to take the dust from the feet of every one they came across. Some rolled on the ground from pure joy. Some fainted away from excessive emotion. Others collected dust from the street to carry it home as sacred object sanctified by the touch of pious men's feet. Many besmeared their bodies and heads with it. There was scarcely a man in those hundred thousand men who could restrain his tears of joy that filled their hearts.

Well, we could see that religion was not dead; it exists in Calcutta, it exists in full force. And where religion existed they have every thing. It appeared to us on the occasion that God existed, and not only that, but that the same God is very good. Or how was it that myriads of men, many of them perhaps suffering from misery, should feel such holy joy when communing with Him?

SCENE AT THE MAHARAJAH'S PALACE.

It was late in the evening of the 24th instant that Babu Ashutosh Mullick came to the Patrika office and represented to Babu Mati Lal Ghose that Maharajah Bahadur Sir Jotindra Mohan, Jagore, K. C. S. I., would be glad to entertain the Sankeertan parties with refreshments if the Gauranga Samaj would accept the invitation and undertake to take the various parties to the Maharajah's palace. Babu Mati Lal wrote to the Maharajah to ascertain whether what he had heard from Babu Ashutosh Mullick was correct or not, and the next morning the Maharajah sent a reply which unfortunately did not reach him (Mati Lal) till the day following. The Maharajah was good enough to write that his Castle compound would be placed at the disposal of the Gauranga Samaj; that, "in a sacred cause like this I could not but take the greatest interest," and that it would give him great pleasure to entertain in the Sankeertan parties. It was then arranged by the Gauranga Samaj that the Sankeertan parties, after they had entertained the people assembled in the Beadon Square and elsewhere, would proceed to the Pethuriaigha Rajbati at nine, and take rest and refreshments at the Castle compound. The Maharajah had no idea as to the number of people to be entertained by him; but he was told that he might expect some ten thousand guests. He made preparations accordingly, and gave instructions to Babu Ashutosh Mullick (who deserves great credit in this connection), to his grandsons, sons-in-law, and his manager, to receive the members of the Keertan parties personally, and look after their comforts. In this way the services of the whole household and establishment of the Maharajah were brought into requisition to give a suitable reception to the processions. The Maharajah had several engagements in the evening; but he thought that his absence might be misconstrued by some, so he remained at home, expecting the guests in due time. While seated in his parlour in the "Prasad" surrounded by his friends, he came to realize the immensity of the gathering in the Beadon Square. The noise of the music, which thousands of throats were pouring out and rending the skies as it were, was wafted into his ears and those who sat by him, and infused a divine feeling in his heart, which is naturally piously disposed. The Maharajah remarked that such a vast gathering in Calcutta, for a religious purpose, was unprecedented. He had seen many a gathering, but one like it had never been witnessed by himself or any other man. And a religion, said he, which could bring together such myriads of people, high and low, must be a living one. "This upheaval," continued the Maharajah, "proves conclusively that the Christians, by their efforts of the last 150 years, have not been able to insill one grain of their faith into the Hindu mind, or take out one brick of the solid fabric upon which Hindu religion is based."

While engaged in this agreeable conversation, a message was brought to him by a mischievous tale-bearer, which naturally gave him a rude shock. It was to the effect that Babu Mati Lal Ghose, who was at the *Fashunali* press, had prevented the Sankeertan parties from coming to the palace of the Maharajah by giving out that the Maharajah was not allowing people to enter his Castle compound! The machinations of the man, however, did no harm. Babu Ashutosh Mullick at once ran to the *Bashumati* press to learn what the matter was, and he heard from the editor and the proprietor of the *Bashumati* paper that Babu Mati Lal had left the place an hour ago, that instead of finding fault with the Maharajah, he had specially requested them (Babus Panchankar Banerjee and Upendra Nath Mukerjee) to call on the Maharajah to give him an idea of the people who had assembled and whom he would be required to entertain.

At about 9 P. M., only one hundred out of four hundred Keertan parties could be collected together and brought to the palace of the Maharajah. Thousands followed them, and the spacious court-yard of the "Prasad" was soon filled to suffocation. Here the Keertan parties began to sing and dance, maddened with the feeling of bhakti and piety. The Maharajah when he heard the celestial music and saw the scene before him, was very much affected. Indeed, every one present on the occasion felt a divine joy which he could never forget. The Keertans were performed before the worship hall of the Maharajah where the image of God Krishna was located.

After the performance of the Keertan the thousands who were present were requested to proceed to the compound of the Castle, which was brilliantly lighted with electricity, and take refreshments. The way in which they were requested to partake of his hospitality showed that the Maharajah was the pink of courtesy. Very few could refuse the request, and they satisfied their thirst and the inner man by drinking enough of iced and perfumed *sharbat* and taking sufficient sweets like *sandesh* and *rasagolla*. Each was made to sit and his wants were attended to. The guests were then supplied with *panis* and *chililums*, and all went away satisfied with the Maharajah's hospitality. It is impossible to compute the number who were entertained at the Maharajah's palace. At the lowest calculation, some twenty thousand people were present, and they consumed fifty maunds of *sandesh* and *rasagolla*, etc., and at gallons of iced *sharbat*.

These fifty maunds of *sandesh* would alone cost about three thousand rupees considering that Monday was a festival day. Perhaps the Maharajah was the only person in the whole of Calcutta who could undertake to entertain twenty-thousand people in the way he did at such a short notice.

SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BUDGET DISCUSSION.

THE Calcutta season of the Viceroy's Council ended on Monday when the usual annual discussion on the Budget took place. Almost every member spoke, and His Excellency, the President, closed the debate with an eloquent speech, a full report of which is given below. The speeches were mostly of ordinary nature, official members congratulating each other, non-official members praying for remission of taxation in some form or other. In the otherwise dull and monotonous discussion, which lasted for full six hours, the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu's humorous speech did not contribute a little to relieve the tediousness of the situation. Some of his remarks convulsed the House and even the dignity of the dignified Lord Curzon left him for a time, and leaving aside his usual seriousness His Excellency had a hearty laugh all through the Hon'ble Mr. Charlu spoke His description of the "frontier policy as the greediest cormorant" and his feeling appeal to Lord Curzon "to enchain the fell monster" at any rate to make it "permanently dyspeptic towards Indian blood," was edifying and made even Sir James Westland to leave aside his sombreness and join in general laughter.

The next point worthy of note is the appeal made by almost all the non-official members to raise the taxable minimum of the income-tax. The question was first mooted by the Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhanga with a suggestion that the minimum be raised at Rs. 1500. Mr. Chitnavis joined in the appeal as well as Mr. Ananda Charlu. But what in this connection was most worthy of note was the attitude of Mr. LaTouche, who quite unexpectedly joined in the prayer for raising the taxable minimum of the tax. Mr. Ailan Author, showed his usual wisdom in not asking the Government to remit the income-tax altogether. Mr. Mehta all through his speech quibbled with the Finance Member for not giving enough to his own Presidency of Bombay and charged him with partiality for giving "a thick slice of the pudding" to Bengal—a charge which Sir James in his reply showed had no foundation whatever.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the President said:—I am glad to think that I need not detain my hon. colleagues by remarks of any great length. The discussion to which we have listened has been far from devoid of interest; but although it has elicited differences of opinion, such as may legitimately be expected, it has, on the whole, been marked by an unusual unanimity of sentiment, due, no doubt, in the main to the prosperous circumstances in which we find ourselves, but nevertheless gratifying both to the Government and to the Financial Member with whose last Indian Budget we are dealing. The official life of Sir James Westland, to whose affecting farewell we have just listened without emotion, has been, as he has just told us, indissolubly bound up with the finances of India. This is the seventh Budget that he has introduced into the Legislative Council of Government. Few Chancellors of the Exchequer in England, where the conditions of public employment are more permanent, have introduced a greater number. I doubt if any Indian Chancellor of the Exchequer has introduced so many.

In neither country, I imagine, has any guardian of the public purse been confronted in the course of his official career with more marked vicissitudes of fortune than has Sir J. Westland. He is happy, I think, in this—that his fat years have followed upon his lean years, instead of preceding them; and I can well believe that the anxieties and worries which have distracted him in times past are now forgotten in the glow of honourable satisfaction with which he can regard the termination of his labours, and can congratulate India, not less than himself, that he leaves her upon an ascending plane of material and economic progress.

If the Finance Member in India is chided and reproached for his misfortunes in bad times, at least he should not be robbed of his share of the credit for better days; and I am sure that Council will cordially join me in assuring Sir James Westland of our grateful appreciation of his long and arduous labours, and in wishing him equal success in whatever work he may set his hand to in the future.

With regard to this speech, to which we have just listened, would also say this—and I would say it from personal knowledge—that he has represented himself as a much less charitable individual than he really is. To myself it is, I confess, a source of no slight pleasure that the first financial statement to which I should have listened in this Council has been one of so gratifying a description. My belief, more than once expressed on previous occasions, in the economic vitality of this country, in the solidity and range of its resources, and in its capacity for an industrial expansion far beyond what has hitherto been deemed possible, is confirmed by the experience of the past year. I recognise that the circumstances have been exceptionally favourable. War has fortunately ceased upon the frontier. There has been a high and an almost uniform rate of exchange. There has been notable expansion in certain industries. The harvests have been abundant. On the other hand there have been corresponding sources of depression and alarm in the recurrence of plague, which neither the resources of science nor the utmost administrative vigilance have so far succeeded in defeating, and which has made heavy inroads upon the Imperial as well as upon the Provincial exchequers. That the net result of these contending influences should yet be a balance of a 3-4 crores is indicative to my mind not merely of uncommon powers of recuperation, but of a marvellous latent reserve of strength.

We have been criticised in these circumstances for not having proposed a remission of taxation; and that criticism has found capable expression in more than one quarter at this table to-day. I quite understand, and I do not in any degree deprecate, such criticism. It is the natural and legitimate desire of taxpayers all over the world to obtain relief from what they regard, or at least represent, as their burdens, and to feel the passion for relief swelling in their bosoms in proportion to the apparent existence of the means for satisfying it. I doubt not that the payers of income tax would have welcomed an extension of the scale of exemption. The Hon. the Maharaja of Durbhanga pleaded their cause with great ability, and I was anxious for the extension of that scale from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500; the Hon. Mr. Charlu took much the same view, and the Hon. Mr. LaTouche pleaded for some relaxation of the same system. I may add also that it is equally the desire of Governments not merely to earn the popularity that may result from a remission of taxation although my experience is that popularity so won is a very ephemeral asset—but also in the interests of good Government itself to reduce the burdens upon the people. But there are considerations in this case, both normal

and exceptional, which decided us to take the opposite course.

The normal consideration of which I speak was that of ordinary caution. Though I have spoken of the astonishing recovery of the past year, though I believe it to represent a much more than transient improvement in the resources of the country, and though Sir James Westland budgets for a surplus of nearly four crores in the coming year, I am yet too conscious of the part played by what I may describe as the swing of the pendulum in the economic world to be willing to sacrifice any portion of a hardly won advantage by being in too great a hurry. The Hon. Sir Griffith Evans has reminded us that India is a land of surprises, and these surprises are liable to start into existence equally in the spheres of politics and finance. Even in the more sober atmosphere of England we have had during the past year a startling instance of this phenomenon: for whereas in the plenitude of our wealth and substance, the Government of which I was a member a year ago agreed to a remission of taxation by which we forfeited in the case of one duty alone a sum of nearly 1½ million sterling without, so far as I remember exciting any gratitude from anybody; within the space of a year the balance has so completely swung round owing to unexpected calls that if what I read in the papers be correct, there will be no cause for surprise should the forthcoming Budget contain proposals for the recovery of considerably more than was then remitted. To reduce taxation in one year and to re-impose it in the next is a condition to which Governments have frequently been driven by unforeseen events. But it is one which it is better to avoid by an excess of prudence at the time than to meet with whatever ingenuity at a later period.

The special circumstances which more even than these general considerations decided us against any remission of taxation in the forthcoming year are known to all. It is not unlikely that we may be invited before long to inaugurate momentous changes in the financial system of the Indian Empire. What these changes may be none of us as yet know, and we reserve our entire liberty to examine and consider them when they are submitted to us by Her Majesty's Government as the result of the expert enquiry now proceeding in London. But it must be obvious to the least informed that the prospects of any such change as we may decide to undertake must depend very largely upon the position and the credit that we enjoy at the time in the eyes of the world; that they will be enhanced by the evidences of financial strength to which a large balance and expanding resources are the best testimony; and that they might be correspondingly imperilled by any stringency or insecurity here. We may be called upon to take steps that will affect the entire future of Indian trade and finance. We cannot afford, therefore, to slacken our hold upon any implement that may conduce to their success.

There is another respect in which we may be thought to have carried caution to excessive lengths. The hon. member has framed his estimates for next year upon the basis of a 15½ d. rupee. This has been variously explained as typical of the prudence of one whom I may perhaps without offence describe "as an old financial hand," or as prompted by a chivalrous desire to present a larger surplus than is apparent on the surface to his successor. I understand that both interpretations have been repudiated by the Hon. Member to-day. May I however add—and I do not think that I shall err on the opposite side of optimism in so doing—that this under-estimation, for so I think it may be called, must not be taken to indicate the least want of confidence on the part of the Indian Government. For my part I have every belief that the rupee will retain throughout the ensuing year the same position that it has done during the past; and I may even go further and say that I shall be disappointed if we are not able to invest the 16d. rupee with a greater durability than any which it has hitherto attained.

I am glad to have heard in the speech of those hon. Members who have special knowledge of the circumstances and needs of outlying Provinces, notably in the speech of the Hon. Mr. Rees speaking for Madras, and I think if he will allow me to say so, speaking for interests rather more widely the Railways of Madras, and in the speech of the Hon. Mr. Spence, speaking for Bombay, a general recognition of the assistance that has been rendered by the Government of India to those of the Subordinate Governments who have been in distress. For a few months before the Budget is finally made up, and while the lips of the Finance Member are still sealed, he is the object either of passionate oblation or of pitious appeals from those who think that they are going to get less than their due share of the Imperial superabundance, and who in the agony of their apprehension not infrequently appeal to the large-hearted impartiality of the Viceroy to rescue them from the nigardly prepossessions of the Finance Member. Such at least has been the experience of Sir James Westland and myself during the past few weeks. Meanwhile the Finance Member holds his counsel, and behind a front of iron conceals a melting heart. The result is that now that the figures have transpired, it is I believe generally admitted that we have dealt liberally with our suffering brethren.

The Hon. Mr. Mehta indeed argued that inadequate treatment had been given to his Province of Bombay. Now let me assure him that I have specially interested myself in the fate and fortunes of Bombay. I have been in frequent correspondence with its Governor on the subject, and I have been most anxious that financial justice should be tempered with some financial mercy. I believe that the Government of Bombay are themselves on the whole content with the treatment meted out to them; and I was glad to find that the Hon. Member, although he commenced his remarks in a tone of criticism, ended them in a spirit of generous and I might almost say of wholesale congratulation. The ordinary grants, as I may call them, that we have made to the Provincial Governments in relief of the heavy burdens of plague and famine, amount to 42 lakhs. We have given to them in addition an extraordinary sum of 70 lakhs, a gift which, while it is no criterion of ordinary opportunities or deserts, and while it must not be interpreted by them as a precedent upon which they can rely, is yet, I hope, fairly proportionate on the present occasion both to our abundance and to their needs. The Provincial Contract System is one for the successful working of which a good deal of consideration is required at both ends of the scale; and I hope that the Provincial Governments, while they press upon us the obligations of munificence, will not lose sight of the corresponding obligation of economy.

I am entirely in agreement with some of the remarks that fell from the Hon. Mr. Arthur with respect to the present high rate of telegraphic charges. I regard that rate as inimical to trade, as being a barrier to the ever-growing intercourse between India and the mother country, and as being obsolete and anomalous in itself. I have already considered the question, and I may say that I have placed it in a category of 12 important questions, all of them waiting to be taken up, all of them questions which ought to have been taken up long ago, and to which, as soon as I have the time, I propose to address myself. What these questions are I do not now inform them. It is conceivable that I may have to add a thirteenth to their number in respect of the appeal of the Hon. Sir Griffith Evans with regard to the Small Cause Court Judges in the mofussil. That is a question with which I am necessarily not myself familiar, but while I understand the Finance Minister to have answered him on the point of finance, the impression left on me by Sir Griffith Evans' remarks was this, that he was arguing the case not from the point of view of

pay but from that of character. It is from that point of view that the question is deserving of the attention of the Indian Government, which attention I shall be glad to give to it. But another question has been raised by an Hon. Member sitting at this table which I am unable to add to the dozen already alluded to. I am unable to add to it the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Chitnavis that I should acquiesce in the reduction of the British soldiers in India. I can assure him that no such proposal will form part of the programme of the Government of India during my time.

As regards Railways, Sir James Westland has indicated in his Budget Statement that for the moment our motto is "festina lente," although this must not be taken to mark any policy of revulsion from that which has lately been pursued. There are times, however, at which it is desirable to go a little slower than the maximum pace. I am, however, rather in sympathy with what fell from the Maharaja of Darbhanga concerning the encouragement of light gauge feeder railways; and since I came here I have authorized the construction of some hundreds of miles of such lines. I should say in this context that one of the subjects to which I propose to turn my attention while at Simla is the whole question of the policy of Government in respect of railways in India, and our attitude towards private enterprise in particular. I am not satisfied with a condition of affairs which lays the Indian Government open to the charge—whether it be true or false I have not as yet the knowledge that enables me to pronounce—of indifference to the offers of assistance that are made to it, and of hostility to the investment of British capital in the country. We may hope much from a fixity of exchange if we can succeed in restoring it. I should be glad if the Government could at the same time by its own attitude encourage what I hope may before long be a pronounced inclination towards India of the financial currents in the mercantile world.

The subject of Irrigation is one that appeals very closely to my concern. We are all familiar with the aphorism about the service of the statesman who can make two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before; and in India we do not need to be reminded of the direct and almost immediate benefit to the agrarian class that results from an increase in the area of cultivation. I shall not embark upon any discussion of the rival advantages of irrigation and railways, because such a discussion would not be germane to this debate, and is in reality futile. The Government of India has never been inclined to balance its duties in these respects one against the other, and would, I think, be unwise to do so. Nevertheless annual allotment of 75 lakhs which has for some time been made to irrigation might, I think, with advantage be extended; and I have persuaded Sir J. Westland in his estimate for the forthcoming year to give me another ten lakhs for that purpose. I had asked for more, and he would have been willing to give me more. But a scheme of irrigation is not a project upon which you can start quite as expeditiously or as easily as you can upon a railroad. In the first place, the best areas for the purpose have already been utilised. Fresh schemes are likely to be less profitable, and therefore require more consideration than their predecessors. In the next place, very careful surveys require to be made, levels have to be taken, a staff must be got together, an investigation of existing rights has in all probability to be undertaken. It is not the case therefore, as is sometimes imagined, that as soon as the cheque is drawn, it can at once, so to speak, be cashed in terms of tanks and canals. For these reasons it has been found that we are not in a position in the forthcoming years to spend more than an additional ten lakhs upon irrigation; although in succeeding years, if our finances continue to flourish, I hope that we may present to you a more extended programme. I am about, in the course of a visit to the Punjab, to inspect the great irrigation works that have been taken from the Chenab River, and which were favourably alluded to in the speech of the Hon. Pandit Suraj Koul, and I shall hope to learn a good deal there both concerning the present system and as to future requirements.

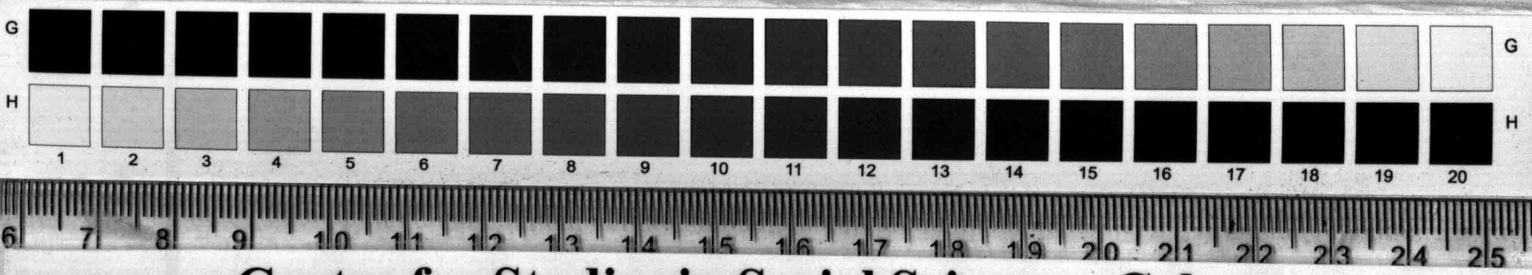
It only remains for me to thank you for your co-operation in the labours of the Session which is now about to conclude, to terminate this discussion and to announce that this Council is adjourned sine die.

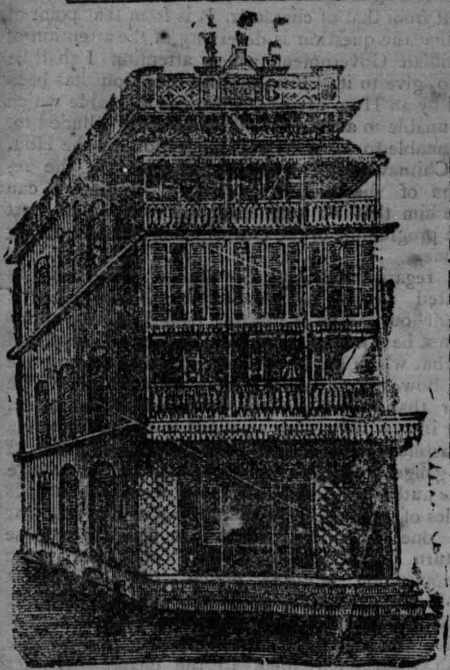
THE betrothal of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala to a sister of His Highness the Prince Basodeo Singh of Ra Bareli and sister-in-law of the Maharana of Dholepur, took place at the close of last month, and the marriage will be celebrated at Ra Bareli about the end of April or early in May.

A Gwalior telegram says: Numerous arrests of Pathans, in connection with the many dacoities which have lately taken place in the Central India Agency, have been simultaneously effected in Gwalior, Bhopal, Sehore, Chabara, and other small States in Central India by Mr. H. G. Waterfield, Assistant General Superintendent, Thuggy and Dacoity Department. He has been specially deputed to investigate this outbreak of dacoity. Startling and sensational disclosures, exposing the workings of a large gang, are expected.

RAI BAHADUR PREE NATH GHOSH, Executive Engineer, 2nd grade, on relief duties in Assam, is posted to the establishment under the Director of Railway Construction for employment on the Ranaghat, Ganges and Katihar Railway Survey. Mr. Lloyd, Executive Engineer, 3rd grade, on return from leave, is posted to the establishment under the Director of Railway Construction for employment on the North-Western Railway.

Capital announces the death of Mr. A. Macdonald who was the editor of the *Englishman* for sometime, in the following terms: "We regret to learn of the death in England: while quite in the prime of life, of Mr. A. Macdonald, who for some years past has filled the editorial chair of our esteemed contemporary the *Englishman*. Mr. Macdonald came to India some sixteen years ago to edit an Allahabad paper, now defunct, the *Herald*. Thence he joined the staff of the *Pioneer*, and subsequently was appointed Editor of the *Englishman*. He has been cut off just when his Indian experience would have been most useful. Among the illustrious role of editors, of this journal, no name is remembered with greater esteem and veneration by the educated Indians than Josiah Hayward (Socquelar), who first started the *Englishman* in 1835; '41 had not a shilling, but I had faith in the chapter of accidents. Time was allowed for the payment of the capital and I looked about for a friend to supply me with the means of commencing operations. I found in Dwarkanath Tagore—a Hindoo who loved Englishmen and generously encouraged every enterprise from Rmmohun Roy's dream of Hindoo conversion to the extinction of Toriyism, which he knew meant 'struction. Adieu to the *Bengal Herald* and welcome the *Englishman*, for so I now named the paper which had so long off-nerved liberal nostrils as the John Bull. The celebrated Cob Hurry, as determined a champion against shams and political jobbery as William C. Cbet himself was another editor whose sacred name may be mentioned along with that of Socquelar. Mr. James Hutton was another veteran journalist of this paper who gave us a taste of mature editorial qualities."





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If "The Hindu System of Moral Science", by Babu Kisori Lal Sarker, M. A., B. L., evoked admiration from many distinguished Hindus and such eminent Christians of world-wide celebrity as Professor Cowell, his treatise entitled "The Hindu System of Religious Science and Art" which and just been published, will, we doubt not, secure still greater admiration for his complete grasp of the difficult subject of the different systems of Hindu religion and the masterly way in which he has presented it to the world.

Gentlemen, wishing to have a copy will please communicate at once with, **BABU SARASI LAL SARKAR, B. A., L. M. S.,**

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